

# The DC Gazette

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## HOW SAFE IS YOUR OFFICE?

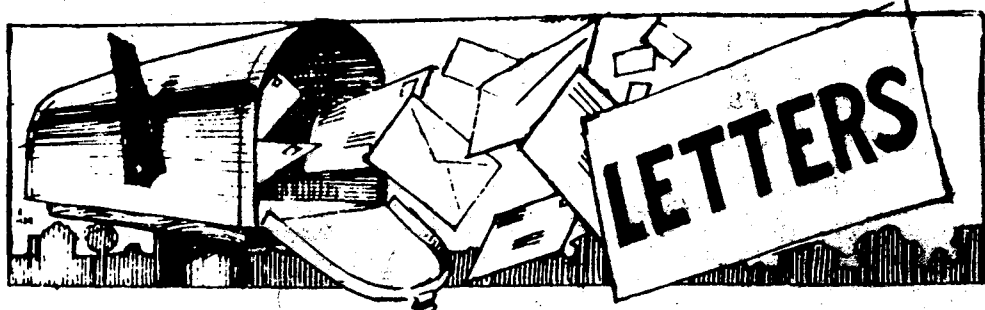


## ARMS CONTROL MYTHS

•  
Neighborhood News  
•

## REDS: WHOSE SIDE ARE WE ON?





## Poland

There is only one course which can free the workers in Poland. No workers in any Soviet-dominated country can be free unless and until that course is pursued.

The first step is for Ronald Reagan to accept Brezhnev's invitation to meet in a summit meeting. The second step is for President Reagan to urge at that summit meeting that capitalism and communism negotiate a mutually satisfactory formula under which the two ideologies can co-exist and co-operate without waging war on each other. He should urge that we call a halt to the insanity of trying to keep world peace by the possibility and capability of killing 100 million of each other's men, women and children by burning them alive! He should urge that instead of such madness the U.S. (with the NATO nations) and the USSR (with the Warsaw Pact nations) agree with one another and with China and with any other nation wishing to join, to live up to the promises they and the rest of the 157 nations made in writing when they signed the Charter of the United Nations. When they did so, they promised not to use force except collectively to keep peace in the world or in their own self-defense. But those promises were not kept and will not be kept unless capitalism and communism find a way to live together without making war on each other.

Therefore, President Reagan should urge the establishment of a true collective security system under which the nations with 98% of the financial and military power in the world use that power not to wage war against each other, but, jointly to prevent war and to stop it when it starts. None will be likely to start. For, if power were balanced so heavily against any potential aggressor, none would dare attempt aggression. Similarly, the great financial power of those nations could be used to aid the under-developed nations in their efforts to develop. A new trillion dollar market would open up. It would be a new and different world.

The suggestion is a practical one. It is quite probable that Brezhnev and the men in the Kremlin would be eager to accept a reasonable plan for world public order.

The two main objectives of the USSR are, first, national security—the aim of every nation—and second, to spread socialism. As to the first aim, the USSR can be secure only if such a collective security system were established. It would make every nation secure, including the USSR.

As to its second aim of spreading the doctrine of socialism, it would spread faster if people were allowed to choose it by the ballot instead of it being forced on them in totalitarian rigidity. Socialism was freely chosen by the ballot twice in England, and more recently, in France and in Greece. The USSR can be made to realize that the free world tolerates, and even aids, non-aggressive socialism such as the Islamic socialism of Algeria, Syria and Iraq, and other varieties found in Tanzania, Jamaica and Guyana. They all owe something to Karl Marx, but they are not out to conquer the world.

In addition to aiding the USSR in achieving its two principal objectives, collective security would solve many of its pressing problems. The USSR has a 4000-mile common border with China, which it fears. It has a 1200-mile common border with a hostile Afghanistan. The hostility is founded in the Moslem world-wide hatred of communism because of its atheistic aspects. The Polish workers have shown the world that the Soviet brand of communism does not fulfill its promise to the workers. Infant mortality has risen to 35 for each 1000 births, about 50% of all pregnancies are aborted. Alcoholism is rampant. General health is poor. Consumer goods are scarce. Agriculture is in shambles. And the developing good relations between the U.S. and China is a matter of the deepest concern to the Kremlin. With a friendly U.S., all those problems would either cease to exist or could easily be solved. The USSR has much to gain and nothing to lose by listening to reason.

The suggested action is politically possible. It has been well said that politics is the art of the possible. That the USSR is a less startling concept than was the 180 degree turn-around effected between China and the U.S. in 1972. In 1971, that looked equally impossible. Nor is the idea completely out of the range of our foreign policy. A few months ago, Eugene V. Rostow, the Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency was correctly quoted as saying "No, I am not against negotiating with the Soviet Union or reaching an agreement with them until the lions and lambs lie down together. On the contrary, I favor doing so...."

Further, unless civilization as we know it is fated to destroy itself such a collective security system is inevitable. Talleyrand said "The art of statesmanship is to accelerate the inevitable." We ask President Reagan to use his charismatic powers of persuasion to try to accelerate the inevitable by persuading the USSR to join in some form of world order.

Please, Mr. President, hear and act on our pleas!

RAYMOND L. WISE  
North Miami, Fla.

## Farewell

After four years, I leave the Board of Education with bittersweet feelings—with relief to be able to spend more time with my family, and with disappointment to leave unfinished such absorbing projects as special education, Sumner School and the Model High School.

I want to thank all of you who have given me an opportunity to work for a cause I believe in deeply: public education. There has been some progress made in the past four years, but much more work is needed to address the basic problems facing the D.C. public school system. These include strengthening the skills of our teaching force, providing adequate funding, and developing a more effective school board. Yet I leave with a feeling of optimism. In particular, I feel that Floretta McKenzie is uniquely capable of leading the way toward dramatic improvements.

Although I will seek employment outside the field of education, I will continue to support the D.C. Public Schools as a volunteer and as a parent.

In the final analysis, our public school system will only be as good as we demand that it be.

ALAIRE B. RIEFFEL  
Washington, D.C.

## Boss goof

Don't nobody at the Gazette known no history? Your item on the Alexander Shepherd house was way off the mark. Having done the research and written the landmark application, I'm fairly familiar with the facts.

Shepherd built the house circa 1868-9, lived in it from 1869 to sometime in 1872. During that time he was considerable more than a plumbing contractor. He was at first the major "behind the scenes" political leader, bringing together diverse political elements in the city to create the Citizens Reform Association, which he headed, to elect Matthew Emery as mayor of Washington City (1870), push through territorial legislation in Congress which united for the first time the three separate political entities of Georgetown, Washington City and Washington County -- in those days the first step toward statehood. (Was Shepherd the father of the DC statehood movement? Think about it, Sam.)

In early 1871, he began his work as the defacto ruler of the Board of Public Works, even before the territorial government officially took office. By the end of 1871, the planning for improvements was completed and well underway. The key element in that plan was the decision to work within a particular geographical area, rather than citywide. He chose the area from the Mall north to P St. between New Jersey and New Hampshire Avenues. That constitutes what is now the Federal Triangle, downtown, the lower parts of the Shaw area, Dupont Circle, Logan Circle and the eastern section of Foggy Bottom.

By the end of 1871, progress was made in filling in the Washington Canal (now Constitution Avenue), which was an open sewer, grading streets, installing underground sewers, water lines and gas lines from P Street south to the Mall. I needn't point out that before 1871 there were no such things as sewers, water lines, paved streets, street lights (gas) in most of the area.

All of this action, well under way in 1871, continued through 1872, 3 and 4, when the territorial government was ended by Congress. But the important fact was that the plan and the initial work in 1871 created the growth of the city to the north of downtown and changed visitors' and residents' perception of the city from one of disgust and despair to one of pleasure and pride in a beautiful city of wide paved streets and sidewalks, safe, well-lighted streets, thousands of trees and the most modern municipal conveniences. It also kept Congress from moving the national capital to St. Louis.

All of the planning and the initial execution of the plan -- I reiterate -- was done while Shepherd lived at 1125 10th St. NW. The part of Shepherd's life that had the greatest impact on the history, planning and development of Washington was lived at 1125 10th St. Whoever misled you to say he was nothing but a plumbing contractor when he live there doesn't know much about DC history.

By the way, the house at 1125 10th St. is the only house left standing in which Shepherd lived, the only house in which he changed the face of this city and damned well deserves to be preserved and protected from greedy developers.

TOM LODGE  
Logan Circle, DC

[Hey, look, Tom, I didn't mean to belittle Shepherd or his house. I just got the chronology a little screwed up. I've been trying to resurrect the memory of this fascinating scoundrel for years. I even wrote a song about him once. And it was the Gazette, you may recall, that revealed his statue had been shamefully dumped at Blue Plains.

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Deadline for editorial and advertising matter: 15th of the month.

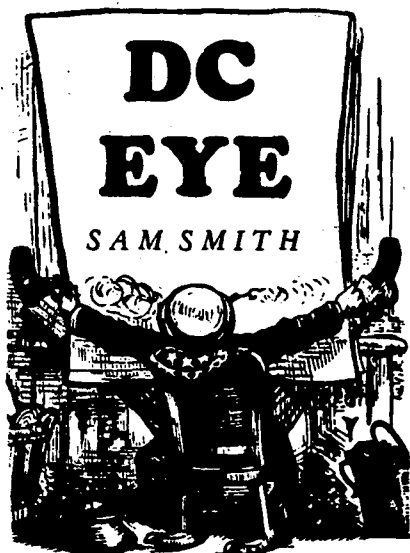
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But lately I've become more circumspect about Shepherd because of a startling personal discovery. You see, Shepherd's family came from Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Well, some of my people did, too.

and they were named Shepherd as well. I haven't checked this out for the same reason I've never asked for my CIA or FBI file: I'm afraid I might find nothing. But I strongly suspect that Shepherd is, as we used to say in West Virginia, kin. Obviously, this poses

grave journalistic problems if I editorialize too strongly on his behalf, but just between you and me, I hope like hell you preserve his home no matter what he did there. Nothing's too good for Cousin Boss -- S.S.]



Now that Ronald Reagan has come out for Puerto Rican statehood and recognized the "right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination" I trust he will turn his attentions next to his colony closer to home.

I read that Mayor Kevin White is trying to raise money for his financially pinched city and has come up with a nifty idea: sell the municipally-owned convention center. I guess we'll have to wait a bit to see whether this is the first hopeful urban trend of the eighties but DC mayoral candidates might want to pick up on the idea.

One of the curiosities of Washington is the abundance of out-of-town newspaper vending machines you find downtown. Not only that, we even have an alien alternative press as well. The paper that used to be known as 1981, and now called City Paper, is actually masterminded by a bunch of people up in Baltimore, which helps to explain the paucity of local matter contained therein. The former title is harder to explain, although the editors tried to do so in announcing the new flag: "The name 1981 was born out of a highly creative executive session more than a year ago. We were obviously looking forward to 1984. We thought the name was unique and clever and still do." But, they admit, it confused people (and besides, who wants to buy new stationary every year?) Hence City Paper.

I mention this only because of a claim the editors make in the next paragraph, namely that despite the switch "We'll still be Washington's only alternative to the Post." Ah well, it's nice to see amidst the glut of enconiums about our neighbor to the north, they don't get everything right in Baltimore.

A letter from Australia brought to mind a little-noted asset of DC, namely that we have three outstanding old homes preserved with remarkable fidelity and without a lot of preservationist kitsch that detracts from many historic sites. The three are the Woodrow Wilson house, the Frederic Douglass house and the Christian Heurich mansion. If you've missed any of them, correct this deficiency as soon as possible. You'll be glad you did.

The letter in question addresses only the last-named, but the writer makes some generic points. It is from Warwick Forge, acting administrator of the National Trust of Australia and it was written to the president of the board of the Columbia Historical Society, which takes cares of the Heurich mansion. In it, Forge says:

"I am taking the liberty of writing to you to tell you how immensely thrilled I was to visit Heurich House recently. My wife and I

recently undertook a five week tour of Great Britain and America and I am sure you will not be surprised to learn that our visit to Heurich House provided the most exciting aspect of our trip.

"We are particularly interested in 19th century interiors and accordingly, we were astonished to find Heurich House in such a remarkably intact condition. Throughout the English-speaking world, it is comparatively easy to find house museums open for inspection, but when one investigates the interior, one quickly finds that as a general rule, there is very little that is original. In particular, it is remarkable to find a house with its interiors intact, as is the case at Heurich House.

"My wife and I have spent many years looking at 19th century houses and have been amazed by the paucity of interiors which, by virtue of their intact condition, can provide the visitor with an authentic historical experience. Usually we find that it has been redecorated by well-meaning architects and curators. Often the effect is aesthetically satisfying but as a recreation, such houses are of little historical value and lack the impact of authenticity.

"I have no doubt that the house is of international significant because of its remarkably intact condition. You may not know that in the whole of Britain, we were only able to discover two or three houses open to the public which are comparable."

For what it's worth, Richard Allen isn't the only Washington official who received watches from the Japanese. The annual appraisal of gifts to the mayor lists a Seiko quartz traveling alarm clock "presented by the Japanese delegation." But because it was only appraised at \$15, the mayor gets to keep it if he wants.

Also for what it's worth, DC has added three thousand new income tax payers in each of the past two years. This doesn't necessarily indicate an increase in population.

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For one thing, the city has tightened up its enforcement. Also, there appears to be a shift towards fewer standard deductions in DC (i.e. children). The number of income tax payers is now higher than it was when the city's population was considerably higher.

Speaking of income taxes, it was alleged some weeks back in a certain paper that Georgetown was not contributing its fair share to the city's tax base. According to 1975 figures, Zip Code 20007 (including Georgetown) paid 9% of all income taxes in the city, more than all of Ward Seven. Ward Three paid 36% of the income taxes in the city, more than wards Five, Six, Seven and Eight put together. Juan Williams, please copy.

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## Just politics

§ Things to remember when you start talking about how bad a mayor Marion Barry has been:

- For the first time in home rule history, the city's books are now auditable.
- The growth in the city budget has been noticeably reduced, with much of the remaining growth occurring in mandated programs.
- The size of the locally-funded city workforce has been reduced by 12% -- more than the Reaganistas even plan at the federal level.
- He's gotten surprising cooperation from the Reagan administration on the federal payment and from Senator D'Amato on the Hill.
- While he hasn't cured the financial ills of the city, he has certainly taken a more serious approach to them than Walter Washington ever did.
- The AFDC payment error rate has been cut in half.
- Auto tag renewal has been speeded up.
- City energy consumption is down by \$6 million a year.
- Revenue collections are up significantly.
- Neighborhood crime watches have been encouraged and organized.
- The number of drug arrests have been doubled.
- 29,000 city-funded summer jobs and 6,000 full-time jobs have been created. Before 1979, there was no locally-funded jobs program.

- The Barry Administration has built 6600 housing units
- The Barry administration has built, or has under renovation or construction, 6600 housing units, twice the number of the old administration. Further, this has been done with local as well as federal funds for the first time.
- The Barry administration has given financial or technical assistance to 10,000 tenants to purchase their buildings. These tenants have actually purchased 3500 units.
- Last year, for the first time since home rule, the federal payment received equalled the full appropriated amount.
- The Barry administration has substantially improved the position of women and blacks in government. For example, under Barry, women hold the positions of corporation counsel, chief of the budget office, director of revenue, chief of intergovernmental relations, head of social services, head of rent administration, chief of licenses and investigations, inspector general, press secretary, and nine of the ten mayoral special assistant. Further, fifty percent of Barry administration appointments to boards and commissions have gone to women, compared with 27% before. For a change, all eight wards are being adequately represented as well.

§ On the other hand: Barry's approach to planning and development has seemed to reflect campaign contributions rather than the interests of the city. The downtown land-grabbers have had a field day under Barry and both black and white political buddies have been rewarded excessively. He has taken funds out of the hide of the schools, recreation and libraries to shore up other programs. He has failed to get a good handle on crime. And he has failed to come to grips with the bottomless pit of Metro finances.

§ Wait to see whether he blows his campaign. If he engages in more stunts like sending out campaign literature with the business tax forms he's going to become hard to defend. .... Then there's the personal aspects of the campaign. There's no evidence that Barry is involved in the Pride scandal (and, no, the Post isn't waiting to drop it -- they don't have it either) but it's a great silent issue in the campaign. It will hurt him, regardless of what happens. .... What he could do something about is his own approach to people. To too many he comes across as slick and arrogant, too big for his boots. He's got a solid record but he won't get it across if no one believes him.

§ Just for the record, the Gazette doesn't have any secret agenda concerning the mayor's race. Frankly, we're just as confused as you are. But maybe our attempt to work it all out in print will help you, too. We hope so.

§ If Juan Williams covers the campaign the way he wrote that story about Sterling Tucker, we're in for a lot of good reading. We were beginning to lose faith in Williams after his terrible piece on Georgetown but the Tucker article expressed the pathos of ambition scorned. He quoted Tucker as saying, "Even in games people are more sensitive to talent. I can't understand what's going on... Why? Why?" Later Tucker said, "People are reaching out to me to save the city and I am answering them." The day after the Post story, Tucker produced a list of 201 people who had reached out to him far enough to support him for mayor. Tucker says his backers are pledged to raise \$250,000.

§ John Ray is spending big early; the real test is whether he's blowing his wad or whether it'll bring in new money. His radio spots

## DC vs. Montgomery County Schools

Parents United for Full Public School Funding, a city-wide coalition of parents of D.C. public school children formed in 1980 to seek adequate funding for the public schools, has released its second annual comparative analysis of the school budgets of the District and Montgomery County.

The study was prepared over a period of several months by Mary Levy, a lawyer with extensive experience in school finance and budget issues. After noting that the District and Montgomery County public school systems are almost exactly the same size, each having about 95,000 full-time pupils and 200 facilities, the study compares the two systems in several basic categories. Among the most striking findings are the following:

- For a student body much less in need of special attention, Montgomery County will spend in FY 1982 \$67.5 million more in comparable categories than the District. In FY 1981, the gap was \$52.9 million. The total state and local budget for the District is \$253.8 million versus \$321.3 million for Montgomery County.
- Because it has so much less money available to support its schools, the District has 466 fewer teachers than Montgomery County, even though it allocates 1% more of its state and local funds to this category.
- The District has 86 classroom aides, 75 of them in special education, while Montgomery

County has 601—over seven times as many.

- The District allocates 69% as much as Montgomery County on texts, supplies and materials of instruction and educational equipment —\$4.4 million versus \$6.4 million.
- The three classroom categories—teachers, aides and texts and supplies—consume the same percentage of each district's budget, but D.C. has \$373 per pupil less than Montgomery County. Last year D.C. lagged by \$269 per pupil.
- D.C. spends half as much on its school libraries as does Montgomery County, \$4.8 million for the District versus \$9.0 million for Montgomery County.
- D.C. and Montgomery County each spend approximately 4% of their state and local funds on administration. D.C. has 337 positions for central administration and support, while Montgomery County has 378 such positions.

According to Parents United, the severe underfunding of D.C. schools results from the school system being forced for several consecutive years to absorb unfunded costs of early retirements, utilities price increase, pay increases for school staff, and the cost of essential programs formerly supported by federal aid.

# Does the Post Serve Us?

Have you wondered why the Washington Post never writes about our area of town? (The last time it printed a feature about Neighbors Inc. was 10 years ago.)

It wasn't because our community groups haven't tried. Press releases, phone calls to editors, contacts with reporters—nothing seemed to work.

In December, representatives of Neighbors Inc. and other organizations in Ward 4 met with Milton Coleman, city editor, and Thomas Morgan, editor of the District Weekly, to find out why.

Coleman admitted that the Post is not doing an adequate job of covering local news. He said he wants to "open the lines of communication" with community groups.

NI President Loretta Neumann said that many neighborhood issues were of concern to people throughout the metropolitan area. She noted that the Post did not cover the NI-hosted National Neighbors conference last June, although it was of both local and national interest and Coleman himself had participated in one of its workshops. She also said that the Post seldom writes about zoning or historic preservation issues.

LeRoy Edwards, president of the South Manor Neighborhood Assoc., told of his group's fight with the Southland Corporation and its plans for a new Seven-Eleven store in the neighborhood. He noted that this is happening all over the city. "People should know this," he said.

Randy McCathren, president of Plan Takoma, described his neighborhood's battle over the liquor license at the Whistle Stop on 4th St. NW and the problems they encountered with the ABC Board. "The fact that the ABC Board violates its own rules and law concerns everyone," he said.

Norris Dodson, former president, and James Johnson, vice president, of the Shepherd Park Citizens Assoc., told of the controversy concerning the Marjorie Webster Junior College on Kalmia Road and Congress's action to turn it over to Gallaudet College.

Rose Ann Lee, chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, noted that the ANC column in the District Weekly provides good information on neighborhood issues.

Carol Rende, NI member and former chair of the Takoma/DC DOT Transportation Task Force, pointed to the Post's lack of coverage of housing discrimination. She also noted Takoma's innovative traffic study, the first in D.C. "This could be a guide for other neighborhoods," she said.

Evelyn Gray, president of the Brightwood Community Assoc., said that some bills before the City Council, such as the one on compulsory automobile insurance, affect all city residents but are not being reported on.

Carl Bergman, NI Board member, said that a sampling of the Metro sections showed that 23% of the stories were about the District, while 54% were about Maryland and Virginia, and the remainder about other subjects.

Bliss Bruen, chair of the Ward 4 Community School Advisory Council, told of the need for more news about public school programs, particularly successful ones that could be a model for other neighborhoods, and the issue of under-utilized schools.

Shirley Edwards, member of South Manor Neighborhood Assoc. and NI's Board, noted that the Style section does not cover local social events, such as the party for 600 underprivileged children she attended. "The following morning, there was a huge article on a party for a dozen kids in McLean," she said.

Nancy Smith, director of the Child Advocacy Center, told of the severe problems with adoption and foster care programs in the District, which have gone unreported in the Post. Unlike other papers, the Post has also refused to run stories about individual children who are available for adoption.

Coleman agreed to set up another meeting in mid-February with community leaders and the new editor of the Metro section, David Maraniss.

[From Neighbors Ink]

and campaign literature is smooth, but not too smooth, a professional job by Baily, Deardourff. .... Listen to those spots and see if you don't think Ray sounds like a young Fred Allen, which is pretty amazing for a black politician from Toms Creek, Georgia. .... Add the service station owners to the list of those with grievances against Barry who are lining up with Ray. And don't forget the Bible Belt. Gambling starts this summer and Ray was agin it. .... Caught Ray the other night and he's sounding better but still not lighting sparks. His light record hurts: he cites the condo bill, illegal profits from crime legislation, breaks for developers who provide low and moderate income housing, but it doesn't exactly wow one. .... Crime is a heavy issue in his campaign, but he's got others: wants to abolish the city administrator's office, save \$1.2 million there to be used for retraining city workers. Wants career schools for DC students (they're coming anyway), job training, racial unity, plus speeded up development and building permits in places like Far NE. Takes a tough-sounding approach towards education (although the mayor can't do much about it), saying that "the classroom should be for those willing to learn" and favors testing for teachers. Promises a positive campaign adding that "I would rather be a one-term mayor and build a foundation than be a 12-year mayor who is blown in the wind."

§ Only a bunch of realtors could find something in common between Polly Shackleton, Dave Clarke and William Spaulding. But they did and so they've targetted the trio for defeat in next fall's election. It's no fair. Realtors are meant to pick on good guys and only Clarke clearly falls into that category. Picking on candidates that sane and reasonable voters might also chose to oppose is a dirty political trick to improve the image of the real estate industry. Certainly with Spaulding, and possibly with Shackleton as well, they'll just have to get to the end of the line.

§ Patricia Harris is the Elliot Richardson of local politics. She's got a hell of a resume, but what are her substantive achievements in any of her numerous jobs? One person said, "Well, she must have done all right at HUD, because they made her secretary of HEW." The fact is that modern technology has yet to design a way of

As we went to press, Hizoner had just produced his surprise surplus for the last fiscal year. Like alot of people in town, we feel a bit snookered. There isn't time or space to discuss this matter at length this month, but while it does appear that the original underestimates represented an honest (and rare) miscalculation, the mayor knew earlier than he has let on that the city was going to show a sizable profit. For reasons that now seem self-defeating he refused to let the council and public in on the secret. It will interesting to see how he talks himself out of this one.

determining what anyone did at HUD or HEW. If she's going to campaign on her record, we're going to have to find out what it is. .... Then there's her lack of local involvement. We asked John Ray why Pat Harris wouldn't be a better mayor than he would be and he said, "I don't think Pat Harris would even know where Lorton is at." Of course, Pat Harris does know not to put a redundant "at" at the end of a sentence, which in some quarters may be enough reason to vote for her.

## Trouble at National

Last March, David Clarke, who is chair of COG's Public Safety Policy Committee besides being a member of the DC council, testified before the COG board on the matter of safety at National. In view of the recent accident, certain criticisms of



National by the Airline Pilots Association, which Clarke quoted, are worth reciting. ALPA said:

- The final run and approach from the north requires turns at very low altitudes close to obstructions in order to land within the touchdown zone. (The FAA said that final runs are no more difficult to negotiate than are runs at other airports.)

- Approaches to the north are accomplished in marginally safe conditions when crosswinds and tailwinds are encountered during inclement weather. (The FAA minimized the seriousness of this complaint)

- Overrun areas are too short and do not conform to the 1000-foot length recommended by the FAA. (The FAA concurred.)

- The "prohibited areas" to north (i.e. White House, Monument et al), coupled with obstruction in the departure corridor, cause concern if there is engine failure on a takeoff to the north. (FAA acknowledged the obstructions but said they were similar obstructions at other airports)

- Even though the vast majority of takeoffs and landings at the airport are over water, the marine crash/rescue resources are severely limited. (The FAA concurred that there was a deficiency. It estimated that should an accident occur in the water in the vicinity of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, only enough rescue craft could be mustered to recover a maximum of 45 persons within 15 minutes of the time of notification.)

- Land side crash/rescue facilities are marginal. (This allegation was questioned by both the FAA and local government fire chiefs, but all parties agreed that the issue pointed up a need for a metropolitanwide plan for rescue operations.)

- Under adverse weather conditions, runway lengths are marginal and, when viewed with other deficiencies, such as overruns and obstacles, these runway lengths are seriously limiting. (FAA said they were okay.)

Next?

## Common Capital

About ten years ago, a group of neighbors in the Arthur Capper Housing Project formed a food coop to buy bulk goods for savings. Today, the Arthur Capper Consumer Federation operates a food store in the southeast project which provides training and management skills for residents. With a \$1,500 grant from Common Capital Fund, the Federation is helping residents in other public housing projects set up a similar program.

When a government funded after-school center closed because of budget cuts, a group of hispanic mothers in the Adams-Morgan community started their own program. The first attempt failed because the mothers, most of whom work lower paying jobs, could not afford start-up costs. The mothers did not give up. The center is now open with a \$2,350 grant from Common Capital Fund, and, the fund is helping the mothers develop long range fundraising plans.

The Southern Columbia Heights Tenants Union has piled up impressive victories—from repairing leaky roofs and fallen ceilings to receiving a \$30,000 rollback in illegally increased rents. A \$2,000 grant from Common Capital Fund paid for a staffperson who organized twelve new tenants groups and helped three tenants associations buy their buildings.

These three projects are among 22 community projects funded by Common Capital Fund in its first year of grantmaking.

In D.C., a growing number of groups are taking innovative steps to establish and lead institutions where they live and work. One common obstacle stands in their way—lack of funds.

Common Capital Fund was started to provide resources for organizing efforts for empowerment and social change.

In 1981, Common Capital Fund awarded \$42,000 in grants averaging \$2,000.

"As the federal government dismantles social service programs, grassroots advocacy projects which seek to share power are even more important," says Tim Siegel, co-administrator and one of the organizers of the fund. "We support projects organizing lower income and working people to challenge the root causes of economic and political injustices not just treat the symptoms."

Common Capital Fund supports projects that have difficulty receiving funds from traditional funding sources because they are too new, small or controversial. Because many grassroots groups have little experience writing proposals, staffpersons from the fund will review drafts of grant applications to insure they meet the guidelines.

Grants are awarded by the fund's board of directors, made up of community activists and donors.

"Our application process builds in accountability to the community and to our donors because our proposals are screened by activists who know our community and have their ears to the ground," says Rev. Mamie Williams, chairperson of the Board, and pastor, Calvary United Methodist Church.

Common Capital Fund depends on individual contributions to award grants. All contributions are tax deductible.

"Goodwill is not enough for social change—com-



community activism requires a financial base. Community groups try to raise money from their own constituencies, but with limited results," says Phyllis Jones, co-administrator.

Several publications are available from Common Capital for persons interested in supporting self-help projects, such as *Robin Hood was Right* and *The Gift-Giving Guide*. Written specifically for donors to progressive causes, *The Gift-Giving Guide* unravels the complexities of tax deductible giving, including changes in the 1981 Tax Act.

Common Capital Fund awards grants in the spring and fall. Next applications will be accepted in March. For guidelines and how to apply, call co-administrators, Phyllis Jones and Tim Siegel, 265-1305.

Common Capital Fund is a member of the Funding Exchange, the national umbrella of similar social change foundations across the country.

## Public notices

Throughout February, tours of the Decatur House and the Woodrow Wilson House museums will be available by advance reservation only. Tour groups must number 10 or more persons. In February, each museum will open from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday for unreserved tours. For further information and reservations call: Decatur House 673-4273, Woodrow Wilson House 673-4034.

The D.C. Office of Human Rights is seeking volunteer library assistants to staff its Human Rights Information Center to open in the spring. The center will be located in the Lansburgh's Cultural Center, 420 7th Street, N.W., and will be open on weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The volunteers will help the public use the Information Center, clip daily newspapers, screen and file public information materials, and help maintain a small equal opportunity law library.

The center will serve as a central source of information about local and national human rights issues and laws.

The office is seeking persons with a knowledge of current events and interest, education and experi-

ence in the human rights, research, communications or related fields.

Interested volunteers should contact John L. Watkins, executive assistant to the director at 727-6527.

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The Department of Human Services has announced a continuing program of high blood pressure testing for District residents.

DHS provided 16,407 blood pressure tests in fiscal year 1981. Of these, 1,005 were above normal limits.

Persons found to have elevated blood pressure, are advised to see a physician for additional testing, medication and therapy, if needed. To encourage further medical care, a letter is sent to the person within two weeks after the screening. In addition, up to three phone calls are made to advise the person to see a physician.

Medical experts have said the lifespan of persons who suffer from high blood pressure can be extended up to 15 years if the condition is treated.

Information: Dr. Robert Conn, 673-6725.

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"The Other Place," a special new room for young adults at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, will open this month.

"The Other Place," will be located on the third floor (Room 316) of the Main Library and will feature audio-visual equipment and new books, records and magazines for young people of junior high and high school age.

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There are many children in the Washington, Maryland and Virginia areas who are waiting to be adopted. Many are Black, many are infants or pre-schoolers. They need love, understanding and security—they all need parents and a permanent home.

If you have thought about adoption and wondered about qualifications—yes, you must be over 21; you can be a working mother; you can be a single parent; you can live in an apartment; there may be other children in the family; you do not need a large income or money in the bank.

Lutheran Social Services serves the metropolitan Washington area and needs Black adoptive parents. Give us a call now - 232-6373.

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A women's photography caucus will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the University Club in the Marvin Center, George Washington University, 800 21st St. NW from 9 to 4. The program is sponsored by the International Photographic Society and will feature a luncheon address by Carol Greenawalt, White House photo editor.

Topics to be covered in the program include how to choose a camera, how to use a camera and aesthetics.

Tickets are \$35 and include lunch. Info: 342-2420.

Local organizations are invited to send notices and brief articles about their programs to "Free Parking," c/o the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.



# WARD THREE NEWS

## Council race

At this point, the strongest opposition to Polly Shackleton in the Ward Three city council race appears to be Ruth Dixon, who has been a neighborhood commissioner and a president of the local League of Women Voters. Political consultant Mark Plotkin has also announced for the seat, but he is far less known than Dixon. Meanwhile, Kay McGrath has decided to back Shackleton and is urging her allies to line up behind her, lest a divisive primary battle lead to the ultimate election of a Republican candidate, such as Carol Schwartz.

Dixon states her views elsewhere in this issue. Plotkin, in announcing his candidacy, promised to "be a constant and vocal ombudsman for the citizens of Ward Three. Too often the phone bill we want to complain about, or the electric or gas bill we can't understand is thrown aside in frustration with the rationale that 'that's the system -- no one cares.' I want to change that attitude." Plotkin has been active in the battle against the C&P phone company's proposed local measured rate service. He supports strong condo conversion and rent control laws, as well as mandatory minimum sentences for repeat criminal offenders. .... Dixon's campaign manager is Erika Lnzdborg (who worked on the Wanda Washburn campaign), treasurer is Henry Bashkin, and Carol Currie is precinct coordinator. Others working on the campaign are Liz Weiner, Elena Hess, Ann White, Cindy Bolbach and June Bashkin.

## CANDIDATES' FORUM: Ruth Dixon

*Ruth Dixon is running for the city council from Ward Three.*

I am running because I want to see this city well governed, financially responsible, and concerned about the quality of life of its citizens. I've worked for these goals for years—through various public offices and through my work with the League of Women Voters. The League excels as a training ground for analyzing issues and finding solutions. I want to put my expertise to work to benefit the citizens of Ward 3, and the citizens of the city. As a member of the Council I can do that.

I believe we can and must find solutions to our problems in education, aging, land use, housing, transportation, and that we can improve the quality of life in this city. For example:

We deserve a good educational system. As a Council member, I will work with our Ward 3 School Board member and with parent activists to improve the schools in our ward and in the city. The entire city suffers when students are poorly educated. Good education pays off in a better standard of life for the students and in more efficient employees for the workplace.

A large segment of the city's population is elderly, and a quarter of this group lives in Ward 3. The Office on Aging, working through Iona House and other private agencies, is doing a splendid job. I believe it is essential that these programs be maintained to aid the elderly in avoiding unnecessary institutionalization, and to enjoy this exciting city we live in.

I am concerned about land use and housing. The last large tracts of land must be developed in a manner which does not disrupt existing neighborhoods and create even more traffic congestion. I am concerned about the shortage of rental housing city-wide, about condo conversion when it threatens vulnerable renters, as well as the economic facts of life in the housing industry.

My past experience qualifies me to serve you well on the Council. As president of the D.C. League of Women Voters, I worked extensively with the members of the Council and their staffs: I already know the players and the rules of the game. I have

## ALICE DEAL NEWS

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association has awarded the Deal newspaper, The Real Deal, Medalist Rating, the highest award the organization gives. The Real Deal got 974 points out of a possible 1000. .... After reading several issues, we can tell you the Columbia folk were right on mark .... Eran Fields won a Rubik's Cube Contest by completing the puzzle in one minute and twenty-five seconds, 62 seconds off the world record. .... A fire in the Deal auditorium did \$67,000 worth of damage. .... Eighty-six percent of the students polled at Deal reported that they watched soap operas. Forty-one percent said their parents approved.

## WARD THREE NOTES

Supercan entry into Ward Three was delayed by the bad weather last month. Plans are for all of Ward Three except precincts five and six (i.e. Georgetown and a bit of Glover Park) to be supercanned. If you haven't gotten a notice about the program call 727-4825. .... Barbara Luchs and George Haley have been named to the mayor's Advisory Committee on Recreation. .... Kenneth Druskin, Richard McCooey, Hanne Merriman and Ron Walker, have been named to the mayor's Overall Economic Development Advisory Committee. .... Polly Shackleton

testified before Council committees, and lobbied both the Congress and the Council. I convened public meetings on the legislative process, on election reform, and on redistricting. And, finally, I have worked hard on the D.C. Voting Rights Amendment which will give us the rights to which all U.S. citizens are entitled, and for an expansion of our home rule powers.

As an ANC commissioner, I communicated with my constituents through a quarterly newsletter, received and acted on constituent requests and complaints, and reviewed and responded to proposed governmental actions in my district.

I served on the Council's task force on the Board of Elections and Ethics. I understand the elections process, and know steps the Council could take to enable the Board of Elections and Ethics to improve its performance.

I consider the ability to communicate an essential skill for a legislator. I have researched and written papers on D.C. government issues and on Council legislation. I have written articles for the three neighborhood papers in Ward 3 as well as for *The Washington Post*. I have participated in radio and TV talk shows, and made countless speeches to citizen groups.

All of these activities have required leadership, integrity, ability, and determination. It is these attributes which I bring to this race. I am determined to see this race through to victory in September and November. All my life I have been willing to fight to win. This race will be no exception. It will not be an easy race, but I pledge that I will run hard, fight fair, and win!

My friends are another reason I expect to win. Over 100 have endorsed me already. They have pledged their support in time, effort, money, and votes. I have worked with many people in the ward and I believe I can honestly call everyone with whom I have ever worked a friend. They will share a large part of the acclaim for my victory at the polls.

*The Gazette welcomes short articles from all candidates for the Ward III city council seat. Send to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.*

is looking for volunteers to help man her ward office 5601 Conn. Ave. NW. If you can volunteer three hours a week, call Alva Canter at 686-5227. The office is open weekdays 10-4. .... Things are in a state of limbo in the MacArthur theatre block where the developer has yet to line up financing or architects. The local neighborhood commission has hired architect Rich Ridley to take a look at the situation and Ridley believes the theatre can be saved through a combination of development rights transfers and zoning changes. The theatre, incidentally, is a nice piece of Art Deco work, the sort of thing preservationists in the not too distant future will take a serious interest in saving. .... The Board of Trustees of the University of DC voted in late December to buy a \$330,000 home in Chevy Chase for its president.

## Cleveland Park

### CLEVELAND PARK NOTES

The Senator Paul Tsongas family will be moving to Macomb St. in the near future. .... Harry Montague has invented a collapsible bicycle (full size) that you can put in a bag and thus carry on Metro anytime. .... November-December crime statistics show neighborhood crime concentrated on the east side of 34th St., particularly near Conn. Ave., in contrast with the two previous months when crime was concentrated west of 34th St. .... Cleveland Parker Arthur Wheelock has just had his new book, "Vameer," published by Abrams, a handsome volume with tipped-in plates. Wheelock is curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the National Gallery of Art and also teaches at the University of Maryland. .... Clarence Anderson, late of the Macomb Street playground, is working on the John Ray campaign.

The Cleveland Park/Woodley Park Neighborhood Commission has voted to oppose the enclosed sidewalk cafe bill currently pending in council. While the commission did not oppose sidewalk cafes per se, it said, "fully enclosed year-round heated and air conditioned 'imitation sidewalk' cafes are defeating the purpose of true transition space and merely are 'building projections' into public space." .... A meeting of Citizens for City Living last month voted to join Friends of Tregaron in its opposition to the PUD proposed for the Tregaron site. The committee also heard a presentation on plans for expanding McLean Gardens. Several criticisms were heard including a demand that parking spaces be assigned to individual units. .... White enrollment at John Eaton school has dropped from 253 in 1977 to 118 last fall.

## WARD ONE

### MOUNT PLEASANT NOTES

The Mount Pleasant Elm fund has raised sufficient money to inoculate three hundred trees against Dutch elm disease. .... The mayor's new capital budget includes \$618,000 for the renovation of the Mt. Pleasant Library.

### WARD ONE NOTES

Councilmember David Clarke complained last

## Frain's Beat

GEORGE FRAIN

• American Security Bank has opened its 36th branch at 1835 Columbia Road NW. The new branch occupies the site which was the home of the colorful DC Dragons Karate Center for several years. The entire banking operation is one one floor. The entry of a new branch bank was unusually quiet for such a major move. Remember the fight waged by AMO and the ANC against Perpetual in 1976-77?

• A new latino business association is being established in Adams Morgan. Leading members of the latino business community met recently at the Ontario Theater at the invitation of Carlos Rosario who runs the theatre.

• Now that Perpetual American has agreed to merge with First Financial of Virginia Corp. (a major Virginia S&L), it may have the longest name in history. It will have more assets than Riggs if the merger goes through. Will the new name fit on our branch?

month that the Department of Transportation violated the law establishing Martin Luther King's birthday as an official holiday by issuing parking and traffic violation tickets which would not be issued on other holidays, "treating Dr. King's birthday as a second-class holiday." Added Clarke, "Certainly Dr. King did not let traffic congestion deter him from pursuing his causes, and we should not let it deter us in pursuing the cause of his birthday."

Michael Barton, and Cheryl Dobbins have been named to the mayor's Overall Economic Development Advisory Committee .... City council member Dave Clarke last month called on local religious leaders to open up the churches on "bitter cold nights to give shelter to those who need it."

## WARD TWO

### WARD TWO NOTES

Paul Greenberg, Scott Marlow, and Rose Narva have been named to the mayor's Overall Economic Development Advisory Committee. .... The long displaced statue of Boss Shepherd will be placed in the small triangular park at NH Ave., 18th St. and Que St. Anyone wanting to help in the upkeep of the park is asked to call Commissioner Susan Meehan, 234-5151, evenings.

## Southwest

### NEW BUS ROUTE

Metro has begun a new mini-route between Half & O SW and L'Enfant Plaza (via P, 4th, M, Half, I, 6th, Water, 9th, Maine, 7th & D). Service will operate every fifteen minutes between six am and ten pm Mon-Sat and from 8 am to 8 pm on Sundays. Fares will be fifty cents per trip with transfers issued on payment of the full normal DC fare. For more information about this service, call 637-2437.

## Dupont Circle

### DUPONT CIRCLE BOARDINGS DECLINE

Total daily boardings have declined at the Dupont Circle Metro station for the first time since 1977, due primarily to a loss in evening rush passengers. Morning peak activity has continued to rise, however, and now surpass the PM peak. Metro reports that the drop is due in part to a significant loss of Montgomery County riders because of recent fare increases coupled with changes in the Maryland flash pass.

Between May 1980 and May 1981 morning peak boardings at Dupont Circle went up from 4,045 to 4,564 while evening boardings dropped from 5,648 to 4,282. According to the Metro survey about 74% of the passengers coming to the station walked while 22% came by bus. Fifty-seven percent of the users lived in DC. All these figures were compiled before the opening of the Van Ness extension.

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### DUPONT CIRCLE NOTES

The Dupont Circle Neighborhood Commission has come out against WGL's proposed \$18 million rate increase. .... The Chastleton Tenants Association is fighting against substantial rehabilitation of its building at 1701 16th St. NW. Under current law, if the landlord makes improvements that equal or exceed fifty percent of the assessed value of the structure, rents could be increased by 125%. The ANC has agreed to support the tenants.

### DUPONT CIRCLE ANC

Office: 1722 19th NW, DC 20009

2B01 Page MacCubbin 387-3688  
2B02 Bill Middleton 797-1086  
2B03 George Nelson 387-5312  
2B04 Katherine Ray 296-5149  
2B05 Susan Meehan 234-5151  
2B06 Ralph Bristol 667-9026  
2B07 Ken Rothschild 659-3458  
2B08  
2B09 Linda Menich 483-3281

## WARD FOUR NEWS

### Safeway delayed

Safeway's plans for expanding its store at Piney Branch and Georgia Ave are apparently up in the air again. At Safeway's request, a hearing set for January before the Zoning Commission has been indefinitely postponed. In a letter to the commission, Safeway's lawyers said that store officials have "re-evaluated the project in light of the present economy; the substantial investment necessary to expand the store; and revitalized corporate policy regarding store

sizes. In light of these factors, Safeway is presently investigating reducing the proposed expansion from 42,000 square feet to 37,000 square feet." Last year, Neighbors Inc. and the local neighborhood commission successfully negotiated a number of changes in Safeway's plans for expanding the store, including a reduction in the new store size from 54,000 square feet as first proposed. The store is presently about 24,000 square feet. Safeway also agreed to citizen requests for increased parking spaces, interior landscaping on the parking lot, better lighting and special pedestrian access.

"We're frankly quite surprised at Safeway's decision," said NI president Loretta Neumann. "As far as I know, all the community organizations were supporting Safeway's zoning application. And Safeway told us that this was already one of their most profitable stores in the area."

A representative of Safeway told Neumann that she did not think the expansion plans would be abandoned, only deferred.

### Supporting Subscriptions

In some European countries, small circulation political and alternative journals keep going with the aid of supporting subscribers who contribute a sum in addition to the normal subscription fee to aid the publication in its work. You will note on your renewal form that there is such a category. We hope you will indicate your support of our efforts by subscribing at the supporting rate of \$15 a year rather than the normal \$5. This will allow us not only to continue as an advocacy journal, but to carry on various activities which, while desirable, are not particularly cost-effective e.g. reaching public officials and groups that might not otherwise subscribe, subsidizing subscriptions for prisoners and low-income persons, and serving as a resource for groups and individuals seeking social change. We hope you will become a supporting subscriber when you renew, which, incidentally, you can do right now by sending us \$15 and a sample of your mailing label. Mail to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Thank you.

### WHISTLE STOP APPEALS

The owners of the Whistle Stop bar on 4th St. NW have filed a court petition appealing the ABC Board's decision denying them a Class C liquor license. They also filed a motion with the court to restore their license, pending review by the court of appeals. According to a lawyer with the DC Corporation Counsel, which is opposing the motions, the appeal could take nine months to a year to be decided. Plan Takoma President Randall McCathren says his organization plans to try to intervene in the case.

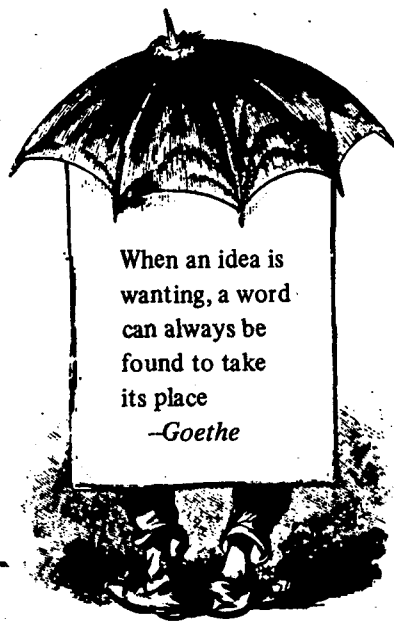
### JARVIS WANTS FIRES INVESTIGATED

Councilmember Charlene Jarvis has requested that the fire department conduct an immediate investigation of four suspicious fires in Ward Four. The fires were at the Upshur St. Clinic, the Petworth Library and two warehouses in the 4000 and 4100 blocks of Georgia Avenue NW.

§  
THANKS TO NEIGHBORS INC  
for its help in this column



# Weather



# Report

## REDS

Jon Rowe

While the communist parties of Western Europe were expressing dismay over the military crack-down in Poland, not everyone in the "free world" was disheartened. One eminently respectable group, the bankers of New York, was actually cheering the Polish Communists on:

**TO SOME BANKERS WITH LOANS IN POLAND, MILITARY CRACKDOWN ISN'T ALL BAD NEWS.**

That was the headline tucked away on page ten of the Wall Street Journal's December 21st edition. With irony just barely restrained by the Journal's usual deadpan style, reporter Julie Salamon's article began:

*President Reagan may denounce events in Poland, but many US bankers see Soviet-style authoritarianism as their best hope for recovering the \$1.3 billion that Poland owes them.*

*"Most bankers think authoritarian governments are good because they impose discipline," said an executive at a bank with millions of dollars in Polish loans. "Everytime there's a coup d'etat in Latin America, there's much rejoicing and knocking at the door offering credit."*

*Though few bankers will concede it publicly, many are hoping that a strong Polish government backed by the Soviet Union, or perhaps the Soviets themselves, will pay off the rest of the \$500 million in interest due Western banks.*

The U.S. media has made much of the breadlines and jailings, and the wranglings over Poland's enormous debt to Western banks and governments. But of the political implications of that debt, of the support of the Western banks for the military crack-down, we have heard virtually nothing.

Its nothing new, of course, for U.S. based multinational banks to throw their weight behind jack-boot regimes. Milton Friedman and William Simon may say that capitalism is freedom, but the keepers of the capitalist dollar certainly haven't shown much loyalty to freedom around the world. In the past, however, the banks have been able to back dictators, juntas, and torturers and, by waving the red flag, get away with it. There always seemed to be CIA reports linking the opponents of their favorite mustachioed generals to "communist agitators" and "guerillas," who were generally traceable to Fidel Castro.

Whatever their own atrocities, the dictators were fighting off the Commies, and that kept the banks supporting them on the side of freedom.

Poland has blown this cover. In the shipyards at Gdansk, the coal mines at Wujek, the factories in Warsaw, the people are rising up against their Communist repressors. Nobody needs a CIA report. The UPI wire will do. And whom are the banks supporting? The Commies.

Freedom? Forget it. The banks want their money. Apparently, it's not the *ideology* of the Latin American and other insurgents that disturbed the bankers. It is their credit rating.

Citibank official Thomas Theobald admits as much. "Who knows which political system

works?" Mr. Theobald asked Ms. Salamon. "The only test we care about is, 'Can they pay their bills.'"

Can you imagine what Ronald Reagan would do to a Democratic congressional leader who expressed such agnosticism in opposing a new bomber? Can you imagine what would happen to a draftee who refused induction on the grounds that Communism might not be all bad?

The bankers are not alone. U.S. corporations have provided much of the plant and technology of the modern Soviet state. After the 1917 Russian Revolution—"the ten days that shook the world,"—companies like Westinghouse, DuPont, RCA and Ford were scurrying back to Russia to help Lenin construct the new order. General Electric, where "progress is our most important product," built the giant Kharhov Turbine works—which had two and one half times the capacity of GE's largest U.S. plant of those days.

By 1944, Stalin could tell the President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that two thirds of the major industrial projects in the USSR had been built with U.S. assistance—including virtually the entire Soviet auto industry, thanks to Ford and other companies.

The Reganites may chastize liberals as "soft on Communism," but their corporate backers continue to serve as warehouse central for the Communist state. Semiconductors, computers, ball bearing technology—all with obvious military and police state applications, have passed across the Iron Curtain almost as freely as figs at a Middle Eastern bazaar. The trucks used in the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were built where? You got it. The Soviets' own American-made Kana River truck factory.

Now we are embarking upon the largest military build-up in the history of this planet, in order to defend ourselves against the Soviet state which our banks and corporations helped finance and build and arm. It wouldn't be surprising if the same companies were getting, in some fashion, defense business on *both* sides.

But what does all this *mean*? Just that banks and corporations are greedy to the core? Lenin, in fact, thought that greed would be the capitalists undoing. "Comrades, don't panic," Lenin once said at a tense moment during a party meeting in Moscow. "When things go very hard for us, we will give a rope to the bourgeoisie, and the bourgeoisie will hang itself."

Yes, the banks and corporations are greedy. But I think something more is going on here, something that could change the way we see big banks and corporations on the one hand, and the Soviet state on the other.

Let's start by asking who *doesn't* get invited to Warsaw and Moscow to sip vodka and cut deals. Strange, but it's precisely those people and groups most castigated in this country as "leftists" and hence, we are told, Russia-leaning. When was the

last time you heard about a Ralph Nader speaking tour in the Soviet Union?

You haven't. And you probably won't. The Kremlin has no more use for such boat rockers than does the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

How about organized labor, another purported threat to free enterprise? You won't see them in Moscow either. Only their bosses, the ones who accuse the unions of being hostile to capital and profit.

Environmentalists? If there's an environmental movement in Russia, its deeper underground than the Soviet Mark Russell. You'll find American bull dozer buffs and polluters doing their thing behind the Iron Curtain. But the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth are no more welcome there than they are in James Watt's Interior Department.

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I first started to think about all this a number of years ago, when I encountered at a friend's wedding, a Soviet official who worked, he said, in pollution control.

He was a worn, slightly stooped man in his late forties or fifties, with a gentle yet proper manner and a face that seemed grey.

Fresh out of school, and bubbling with innocence, I blurted out, "Boy, your job must be a lot easier in your country than it is in this country."

"Why?" he asked. He looked genuinely puzzled.

His response took me aback. I thought the point was obvious. "Well," I explained, "you don't have all the big corporations opposing everything you do, like we have here."

His face formed a weary smile, like a man long ago resigned to official falsities. Glancing over his shoulder, he hunched a little closer and said softly, "My boy, in my country, the corporations *are* the government." Then he walked away.

Over the days and weeks that followed, my thoughts went something like this: In the Soviet Union, everything is supposed to belong to the people—or at least to the state, which is sort of holding things in trust until the people grow up. There aren't supposed to be any corporations there. There shouldn't be anyone to oppose pollution control. That's one reason people in this country who fight big corporations are called 'leftists.' Yet this man, who should know, is now telling me that in Russia the corporations control everything. How can this be?

An idea started to grow on me. "Could it be that the whole official picture of things is wrong? Could it be that the Soviet Union isn't the ultimate worker state at all, but is rather the ultimate corporate state—the way government would be if corporations, rather than workers, ran it totally? Could it be that Communism, at least as the Soviets practice it, is not ultimate left, but ultimate right?"

When I tried looking at things through this new prism, I was stunned at how much our largest corporations and the Soviet state have in common. Both are nominal democracies that are really controlled by an inside, self-perpetuating management



clique. Both are run through sprawling paperwork bureaucracies which stifle initiative and innovation. Both are rife with internal politicking and backstabbing. Both adhere to rigid hierarchy, thrive on secrecy, demand absolute internal conformity and eliminate dissenters. Both deny those within their power a bill of rights. Both put their own expansion and convenience above all moral values—indeed, self-interest and growth are their moral values. Both embrace ideologies which give their self-seeking a cosmic justification. Both pay lip service to worker rights while in fact dealing with workers as they deal with everyone else—trying to get the most for the least.

Both tend toward larger and more centralized technologies.

Both treat their organizational appendages—whether corporate subsidiaries or client states—as colonies. They prop them up or bleed them of cash and resources, as suits their convenience.

Above all, both are ruled by timid, deeply conservative men who live off the legacy of forebears more daring and remuncious than they. The current managers, both corporate and Soviet, are not buccaneer capitalists or flaming revolutionaries. Rather, they are security-maximizers whose goal in life is a steady growth curve. The faceless heads of Ford and Exxon have no more in common with Henry Ford and John D. Rockefeller than Brezhnev and Co. have in common with Trotsky and Lenin.

In sum, could it be that our bankers and corporate managers get along so well with the Communist establishment precisely because they have so much in common? Could they be, in reality, on the same side of a fundamental economic struggle of which we slowly are becoming aware?

We have all been told that we were born into a world split by a Manichean struggle between 19th century intellectual theories called "capitalism" and "communism." We have been told that these supposed opposites define, for all time, the entire spectrum of possible economic arrangements. They are the choices. They are locked in mortal combat. One or the other must prevail.

But what if that is bunk? What if the leading practitioners of these two theories—which are both premised on materialism and self-seeking as the engines of world events—are heading for the same place? What if the theories, which bear little resemblance to actual practice in either country, don't explain what is happening? What if the



emerging struggle is really between something else, something which cuts athwart the official world view on both sides. What if the struggle is between the forces of centralized economic power on the one hand (embodied by conglomerate corporations, New York banks, and Soviet-style states), and the forces of decentralized economic power on the other (represented by independent businesses, family farmers, Solidarity, at times U.S. labor unions, anti-nuke protestors, alternative energy and appropriate technology advocates, alternative presses and newspapers, and those like Ralph Nader who demand accountability of large institutions, corporate as well as governmental? What if the real struggle is between the centralizers and the decentralizers of imagination and economic power?

And what if the official version of the ideological

armageddon is in large part just a schtick that the leaders on both sides use to whip up public support for big armies and to keep their grasp on the symbols of legitimacy of their respective states?

I don't make light of the differences between the U.S. and the USSR. If the choice is between here or there, I want to live here, but the affinities between the Soviet-style states and the large banks and corporations which are controlling more and more of our economy, are real and ominous.

The events in Poland, and the way our bankers have responded to these events, are a warning. We must not merely check out our defenses. We also must ask again just what it is that we are fighting, and what it is that we are defending. We must ask who "we" are in the first place.

## DAVID ARMSTRONG

Ronald Reagan's scorched earth economic policies are supposed to save Americans money. We all know that. Problem is, they don't and many of us now know that. One of the most telling examples of Reaganomics' fiscal failure is detailed in a thought-provoking report on energy conservation that shows just how the Reagan administration could save Americans billions each year, but doesn't.

The report—entitled "Accelerating the Building Sector's Sluggish Response to Rising Energy Prices"—reveals that the U.S. could cut the energy needed to heat and light this country's buildings in half by the year 2000, simply by using known conservation techniques. As the report's authors make clear, however, those techniques are not likely to be efficiently employed without government prodding of the building industry. Government is, of course, doing just the opposite.

From a standpoint of cost-effectiveness, ecological sanity and self-reliance—goals the Reagan administration says it supports—that is contradictory. Cutting the energy we use in our buildings in half could eventually save 8 million barrels of oil a day, help protect our fragile environment and lessen U.S. oil imports.

The government knows this. The report's co-author, Arthur H. Rosenfeld, a physics professor at the University of California at Berkeley, testified before two congressional committees last April and May and told them so.

Powerful elements of private industry know it, too. Last June, Rosenfeld ventured into the lion's den to deliver the report he wrote with Mark D. Levine, an analyst at Lawrence Berkeley Labora-

tory, to the Atomic Industrial Forum. That's the national trade association of the nuclear power industry. The pro-nuke moneybags were presumably not amused to hear that the vast quantities of energy they claim Americans crave can be conserved—and with no drop in the standard of living, at that.

"I should point out," writes Rosenfeld, "that we always took the position that the amenities provided by energy should remain the same or be improved. We only changed the efficiency."

Rosenfeld and Levine's findings complement those of other analysts who studied potential energy savings in industry, transportation and utilities as part of a wide-ranging study for the Solar Energy Research Institute. All told, the analysts concluded, the U.S. could save \$50 billion of energy every year, with "savings in the building sector alone... comparable with our oil imports for all sectors."

The price tag for vigorous government action to net such savings, Rosenfeld and Levine concede, is high, but within reach. It would cost \$200 billion to renovate private homes for energy-efficiency, another \$100 billion to rework commercial buildings and \$125 billion for more efficient appliances, such as furnaces, refrigerators and low-flow shower heads. That's \$425 billion.

The way Rosenfeld and Levine figure it, however, \$50 billion in yearly savings would more than pay the bill—not to mention assure the preservation of a priceless environment that would otherwise be ravaged by nuclear, synfuel and coal-burning plants constructed to generate energy we don't need.

According to the two analysts, such large-scale conservation of greenback and green trees could be done by sending a small army of "house doctors" and retrofit contractors hither and yon. They would also have Washington speed the process "by sponsoring applied research, education, training... monitoring and evaluation of retrofit and new buildings, energy labels for appliances and homes and commercial space" and tax credits for conservation.

In the past, Rosenfeld and Levine report, the building industry has been slow to adapt to changing market conditions, such as skyrocketing energy prices. American builders have had to meet few government performance standards and little foreign competition compared to, say, automobile makers, who have been at least somewhat more efficient. Left to their own devices, Rosenfeld and Levine conclude, builders could take up to 20 years to implement changes that would benefit most Americans now. That's why they're calling for leadership from the federal government.

Unfortunately for consumers, that's not the kind of leadership Washington has in mind. Last spring, while Arthur Rosenfeld was presenting his carefully reasoned proposals to Congress, the administration was busy cutting two-thirds of the funds for the Department of Energy's Office of Buildings and Community Systems. Last fall, President Reagan proposed abolishing DOE itself.

That's one reason why your fuel bills won't be dropping with the temperatures this winter, or next, or the one after that.



# SIX ARMS CONTROL MYTHS

George Breslauer

Whatever may come of President Reagan's arms control proposals in the Geneva negotiations over the coming weeks, the short history of nuclear arms limitation talks has taught us one clear lesson: Headline-grabbing proposals, such as Reagan's (or Carter's initial SALT II initiative), have little to do with the ultimate success or failure of the arms control process.

What is far more significant to the long-term prospects for arms control is how the U.S. negotiators relate to a series of hard-line myths about Soviet intentions and capabilities which have helped propel the arms race forward in recent years. Until the grip of these myths on the American psyche is reduced, meaningful arms control is not likely to be reached. What are these myths, and in what sense are they wrong?

• *You cannot trust the Soviet Union to honor treaties.*

In fact, the experience with SALT I suggests the opposite. Soviet violations were minor and did not exceed U.S. violations. Moreover, those bilateral violations were smoothed over and worked out through negotiations.

• *The Soviets engaged in a huge military build-up during the 1970s, taking advantage of the SALT process to overtake us.*

Whatever the Soviets did, they violated no treaty or formal understanding with the United States. More importantly, they did not do all that much. They kept up their previous pace of incremental defense budgeting at a time when the United States was reducing its previous pace. This reduced the relative gap in strategic capability between the two superpowers, stimulating U.S. fears that its previous margin of superiority had disappeared. Indeed it had, but that is not the same as saying that the Soviets now enjoy strategic superiority. (They do not.) We seem to forget that many things undertaken by the Soviets during the 1970s, such as modernization of strategic forces, also were undertaken by the United States and NATO. We also forget that we far exceeded the Soviets in numbers of warheads deployed during the 1970s. The Soviets did build up their strategic forces during the 1970s, and they did reduce the gap, but not nearly to the extent implied by this hard-line myth.

• *The Soviets believe nuclear war can be fought and won; they do not subscribe to U.S. conceptions of deterrence based on Mutual Assured Destruction.*

This may be the most pernicious of the six myths. It is based upon selective quotation from Soviet military doctrine or from statements by Soviet military commanders seeking bigger budgets. In fact, Soviet military doctrine basically argues that the best defense is a good offense. Anyone daring to attack the homeland must be assured in advance of his own destruction. This is far from affirming the ability of the Soviet Union to survive a nuclear war with acceptable damage. Furthermore, when we examine the content of Soviet politicians' statements to each other, we find them continually reaffirming the notion that neither side would survive a nuclear war with acceptable levels of damage. Though the phraseology is different, Soviet conceptions of deterrence are not all that different from MAD.

• *The Soviets will only negotiate seriously from a position of potential inferiority; we need to devel-*

*op bargaining chips that will induce them to sober up.*

This claim has a surface plausibility to it, for we know that Soviet motivation for serious negotiating during SALT I was strongly influenced by their fear of U.S. MIRV, Trident submarine and ABM programs. But the conclusion is misplaced. MIRV and Trident were not headed off by SALT I, yet the Soviet nonetheless negotiated seriously. ABM was perceived to be in the mutual interest of both countries to restrain.

Then there is the problem of the fate of bargaining chips. Once developed, it is rare that they are bargained away. Are we really creating bargaining chips, or just creating another spiral in the arms race? Finally, the real issue is whether we will settle for parity, or are actually seeking to restore the old margin of strategic superiority. The six myths outlined here suggest a state of mind that seeks superiority and fears parity. If those are the terms we effectively place before the Soviets, it is not likely that they will be eager to negotiate.

• *If we do not build up our strategic forces, the Soviets will use their strategic superiority to face us down in Third World crises.*

This claim is mystifying and illogical, but must be taken seriously, for it is widely believed in Washington. First of all, note that it presumes a current condition of Soviet strategic superiority, which is not the case. Secondly, it is the kind of statement that is true only if we make it true. We create for the Soviets an image of will or nerve in given crises; we can do that with or without a margin of superiority in strategic forces, for each side can, in any case, wipe out the other several times over. There is nothing in Soviet literature on the use of force in international relations to suggest that they believe a margin of strategic superiority, one that is far short of first-strike capability, will allow them to face us down in the Third World. U.S. analysts sometimes point to the Cuban missile crisis, claiming that Khrushchev backed down because of U.S. strategic superiority at the time. There is not a shred of evidence to support this. Far more likely, Khrushchev backed down due to a fear of nuclear war—of mutual destruction—and due to U.S. conventional military superiority in the Caribbean.

• *We must build up our strategic forces because of the imminent "window of vulnerability," which will tempt the Soviets to launch a first strike.*

This myth simply is preposterous. Even if the Soviets had the ability to destroy U.S. land missiles before they got off the ground, nobody claims the Soviets have, or will have, the ability to simultaneously destroy our Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles and our Strategic Air Command bombers, either of which could destroy the Soviet Union as a functioning society. Moreover, the whole notion of vulnerability on this issue defies logic. Even if the Soviets had the ability to destroy our strategic capability on land, sea and in the air—an ability they never will have—how would they know they had it? This is not something that can be tested. The level of uncertainty about the capabilities and reliability of the technologies involved is so high, and the risks involved in miscalculation so high (i.e., suicide), that only the most demented madman would contemplate the effort to exploit a so-called "window of vulnerability." Soviet leaders are tough, expansionist and, at the moment, frightened; but they are not madmen. Indeed, the final irony associated with this myth is that, if they actually were demented, no measure of U.S. arms build-up would suffice to deter them, anyway.

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## Apple Pie

Polar bears in northern Canada have found supermarket trashbins an excellent source of food, so much so that some stores have taken to playing loud recordings of threatening bear calls to drive off the animals.

American colleges may turn to demand-side economics to solve their financial problems. Under a program being considered by Indiana University, students enrolled in the most popular majors, such as engineering or biology, would pay more than those majoring in less popular fields such as English and the humanities. Indiana University vice president Kenneth Gros-Louis says it's just an idea, but could become a reality if the school can find a way to guarantee financial aid so students aren't frozen out of a major because of money. But Michael Berrier of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities says that no matter how hard the schools try to be fair, free market education will discriminate against poor students.

A Columbia, Connecticut, man has filed suit to force the government to reveal its plans for the official funeral of Richard Nixon. Ronald Ouellette says his action stems from a "long-time interest in Watergate," as well as a belief that taxpayers shouldn't pick up the tab when Nixon goes to his final reward. Ouellette says he only wants to find out what the government has in mind, but he won't rule out of a suit to prevent public money from being spent on Nixon's funeral.

A British jeweller rented a couple of South American tarantulas for ten bucks to patrol his recent jewelry exhibit. He's happy with their work, saved about 800 dollars a month for armed guards and said the tarantulas required only a daily supply of mealworms. He would hire the creature again: "Crooks hate things like dogs and spiders."

Teachers at the University of Missouri are trying to write a big 10-4 to a new student practice: cheating with CB radios. Assistant economics professor Donald Schilling says a colleague monitoring the airwaves overheard test answers being beamed into his classroom. He says he's "somewhat flattered" by the ruse, because it means he's been able to foil more primitive methods.

PLEASE  
TELL US WHEN  
YOU MOVE



We are told by the press with a consistency that not even William Buckley would attempt to emulate, that Ronald Reagan is a nice guy. It has always struck me that his behavior, not atypical of Republicans of the magnate ilk, is more akin to schizophrenia than it is to niceness. The problem, and danger, of people like Reagan is that not only do love and charity begin at home, they stay there. The result is a kind of eyeball morality. If you are face to face with a person, you behave according to one set of values; if that person, however, merely is part of an aggregate (welfare mothers, for example, or miners down your company's shafts) it is quite another matter. I have no doubt that the president would weep if he were in personal proximity to human suffering. He might write out a check to the sufferer and not even take it off his income tax. But if the sufferer is only a number hidden in a memo or a budget, business once again becomes business.

Some of the most disreputable deeds of American industry were carried out by entrepreneurs who were considered pillars of their church and community, not to mention the Grand Old Party. They insulated themselves from the pain of those they employed, fired, maimed or polluted, while seeming to those close to them paragons of conscience and virtue. Reagan is out of the same mold, with the same perverted inability to take responsibility for the secondary and tertiary results of his actions. It is at best immaturity and at worst a sickness. It is, in any case, not very nice.

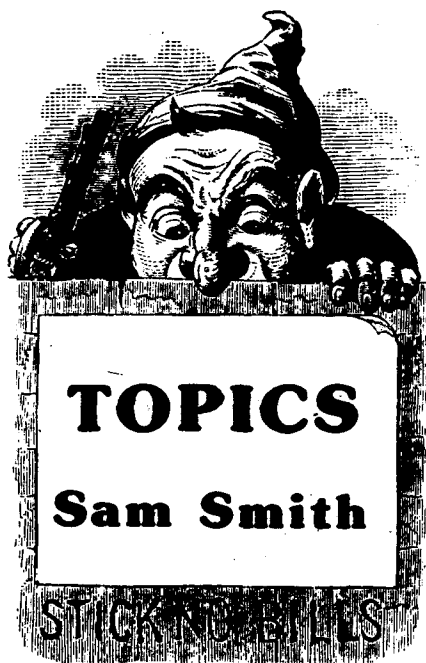
Now that twenty-five top Pentagon officials have taken lie detector tests to prove that they have not been telling tales out of school to the Washington press corps, I hope the Reagan administration will follow this bold initiative with weekly blood and urine tests of all cabinet and sub-cabinet officers to detect quaalude consumption, alcohol levels and possible steroid usage. One can't be too careful these days.

The ADA annual litmus test is not without its faults but it'll give you some sense of things to know that the liberal rating of the Senate as a whole dropped from 46 percent in 1980 to 40 percent in 1981. Of the 18 newcomers (including 16 Republicans), 14 got ratings of 25% or less. The good guys, according to ADA, were Ted Kennedy and Carl Levin with 100%; and Dale Bumpers, Gary Hart, Patrick Leahy, Claiborne Pell, Paul Sarbanes and Paul Tsongas with 95%.

Walter Lyons, a water resources official in Pennsylvania, has uncovered another extraordinary facet of Benjamin Franklin. It seems when Franklin wrote his will, he established a special trust fund to help young artisans. After 200 years, the money was to be used to provide "clean water" for the citizens of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Lyon says that Franklin showed astonishing foresight -- realizing that federal funds for urban wastewater treatment facilities would end in 1990.

In answer to your question, no I haven't seen Absence of Malice yet. I intend to, if only to be better prepared for my daily encounters with others. In the meantime, the talk I have heard suggests a principle which I would recommend to my colleagues in the trade, to wit: the parameters of good sense are not defined by the First Amendment.

While I continue to oppose a return to the draft, I must admit that the behavior of Alexander Haig does present a fairly strong case against a volunteer army. For example, in Brussels last month, a British journalist asked Haig whether there was a double standard in American foreign policy given that the US was attacking the Polish government for martial law while not criticizing military rule in Turkey and other pro-western nations. The question brought a reaction to Haig's face that would have taken George C. Scott sixty-seven run-throughs to get right. Haig's eyes turned to ice, his cheekbones crackled, the skin tightened, and he responded, "Isn't it time that our western critics stop their double standard and isn't it time to give greater



weight to the precious freedoms and values with all their failings and stop this masochistic tearing down of our values? The question itself reflects a double standard that boggles my mind." Not since that memorable day when the secretary thought he was acting president of the US have I seen him quite so worked up, although even in his more tranquilized moments I can't help but get the impression that my television screen is an inadequate cage and that at any moment the General will leap screaming out at me, knocking over the blender, frightening the children, and startling the cat into a mad dash for safety in the basement.

The British journalist's question was, of course, a sound one, and one that requires an answer. The public hysterics over Poland have not been eased by the press reaction. At times like these, it would be nice if at least one of our major journals considered the possibility that the Polish military may have actually prevented the Soviet invasion of Poland. It's not a pleasant thought because it suggests how cruel and capricious is the world in which we live, but it is probable that a number of Latin American democrats would view the actions of the Polish regime so far as remarkably restrained in comparison to the behavior of military governments in their own country. At this point, according to Rule 17.5 of the journalist's code, I am meant to state that I do not condone the Polish military's takeover. But that is precisely not the point. The point is that we spend far too much time condoning and not condoning and not enough time away from the rhetoric trying to find out what really is going on and how, if we don't like it, we can prevent it from getting worse. This is quite another thing, as any professional diplomat will tell you, than comforting ourselves with paroxysms of righteous indignation.

Charlie Hart of Gadsden, Alabama, is a man of many virtues, one of which is that he reads books I should have read and sends me quotes from them. A case in point is Harvey Fergusson's 1923 novel about Washington life called Capitol Hill. A few excerpts:

• "I've seen times when I was so drunk I liked Washington and believed in my immortal soul."

• "His expression was one of humorous, defiant irritation -- the look of a man who just holds bitterness at bay, who has seen despair and decided to laugh at it."

• "The good newspaperman is one who thinks no thought of his own, but takes up another's idea as blotting paper take up ink."

Sometime back, I ran a full page of excerpts from the Freeport (Maine) News police blotter. I had hoped to make this an occasional feature, but the Freeport News came upon hard times and in the midst of its struggle there apparently wasn't room for a police log. Now, buoyed by an enterprising volunteer staff, the paper is fatter and the beloved feature has returned. A few recent crime notes:

• December 22 -- A suspicious vehicle

was reported on Route 125; the driver heard the call on his scanner and informed police he was only looking for his lost Pekinese.

• Dec. 23 -- Police picked up a stray cat that kept returning to a South Freeport residence; however the determined feline escaped custody. Police responded to a call at a local pub and removed a man who was pinching female customers on the rear; the unruly fellow was advised not to return. Police broke up a fight between three people at a party, restored peace and sent the revelers on their way.

Dec. 27 -- Two ducks were hit and killed by a car on Route 1 near Pleasant Street; the carcasses were given to a resident to fix for lunch.

Going back to Rule 17.5 again, I can't condone violence as a means of achieving one's end either, but do feel some notice should be accorded to the 61-year-old man who walked into the headquarters of the Federal Reserve system with two guns and a package he claimed contained dynamite, as well as a determination to improve the nation's economy. According to the Washington Post, "Detectives said the man told them he wanted to take board members hostage to focus media attention on the board's responsibility for high interest rates and the nation's economic difficulties." While his method was unjustifiably extreme, he at least showed, for a terrorist, a rare understanding of how the American economy really works.

Those concerned about the trend towards preventive detention might wish to note that, according to US News & World Report, twenty of the first 22 persons denied release under the Nebraska no-bail amendment were subsequently acquitted. As Bruce Beaudin of the DC pretrial-release agency says, "Judges can't predict dangerousness with any degree of certainty. To eliminate all crime on bail, we'd have to jail thousands of people who won't commit a crime in order to those who will."

The following comes on aging carbon copy paper without attribution. The author should clearly be credited, but the only thing I can tell you is that, despite what it sounds like, it is not a report by David Stockman on orchestra cost-cutting:

"For considerably periods the four oboe players had nothing to do; the numbers should be reduced and the work spread more evenly over the whole of the concert, thus eliminating peaks of activity. All the twelve first violins were playing identical notes; this seems unnecessary duplication. The staff of this section should be drastically cut -- if a large volume of sound is required, it could be obtained by means of electronic amplifier apparatus. Much effort was absorbed in the playing of demi-semi-quavers; this seems an excessive refinement. It is recommended that all notes should be rounded up to the nearest semi-quaver. If this were done it would be possible to use trainees and lower-grade operatives more extensively. There seems to be too much repetition of some musical passages. Scores should be drastically pruned. No useful purpose is served by repeating on the horns a passage which has already been handled by the strings. It is estimated that if all the redundant passages were eliminated the whole concert time of two hours could be reduced to twenty minutes, and there would be no need for an interval."

"The conductor agrees generally with these recommendations, but expresses the opinion that there might be some fall-off in box-office receipts. In such an unlikely event it would then be possible to close sections of the auditorium entirely, with a consequential saving of overhead expenses -- lighting, attendants, etc."

I can't let the Roosevelt Centennial go by without noting the proposal of Bryce Nelson of the LA Times that FDR be memorialized by the replanting of the shelterbelt trees -- those 222 million trees that were placed in the ground between the Dakotas and the Texas panhandle in the thirties and early forties to protect prairie farmland. Over the years, many of the shelterbelt trees have been either taken for granted or neglected



and maintenance has been left to individual farmers. Nelson, writing in the *Harvard Magazine* says, "It seems possible and fitting that President Reagan might lead in designating a living memorial to a president whose wisdom helped sustain farmland in Reagan's native Midwest, and whose economic initiatives helped Reagan's own family survive in Illinois during the Great Depression of the Thirties." It would be a fine memorial; when FDR registered to vote in New York he listed his occupation as "tree grower."

Which, in the erratic path free matter follows in my brain, brings to mind what someone (unreliably said to be Wolcott Gibbs) once said when he saw a tree being transplanted on a New York estate at the cost of \$200,000: "Shows what God could do if he had the money."

That's it for this month. Keep the faith and remember that a world that once contained Hoagy Carmichael can't be all bad.

TRAVELER ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL  
College Press Service

WE MUST NOT SUPPORT PROGRAMS  
THAT PROMOTE THE TAKING  
OF INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE!!

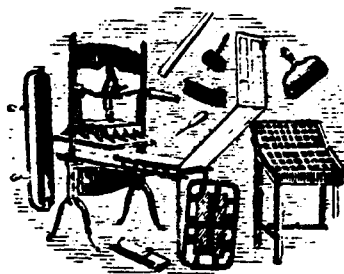


...EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.



## THE PRESS

Bob Alperin



The Reagan Administration gave a foreign power a veto over U.S. butter sales abroad, and the media generally missed the story. Secretary Haig's rivalries, real or imagined, were a frequent 1981 story. Thus, there was a ready mold when Haig, who feared sending the Soviets the wrong signal, opposed Agriculture Secretary Block's free trade views on sales to the USSR. The *Post* bemusedly reported the great compromise: wheat yes, butter no; adding that butter buyer New Zealand would pay less than the USSR.

An informative article by *Kansas City Star* agribusiness editor Karen Freiberg provided more details. The Soviets offered cash for immediate delivery. New Zealand obtained 6 months credit after delivery, and a year to take it. Meanwhile the U.S. pays storage costs, and missed a chance to enter the giant Soviet market. But, that wasn't all.

The agreement gave New Zealand a veto on overseas sale of U.S. butter. The deal was a hot topic and Agriculture's press people refer you to the secretary's office. They said there would have been no deal without the veto. (Used 3 times in the first month, it protects prices against market-weakening sale of the remaining U.S. surplus.) I was assured the veto doesn't apply to the private sale of butter abroad, a point the *Star* missed—wisely so. To buy the butter from the farmer, the private dealer would have to match the U.S. government's offer, which under a price-support law, is far above the world market price. Then the broker could sell at a lower price.

In return for the various concessions, New Zealand agreed not to resell U.S. butter to the USSR. They may sell the Soviets their own butter, using U.S. butter in other markets. In a related item Britain's *Financial Times* discovered that EEC sales of butter and butter oil to the USSR rose 60% in 1980 although Europe had agreed to hold sales to "traditional levels" to support the U.S. trade embargo.

When calculating what signals the Soviets received from the wheat-butter compromise, don't forget it occurred within the context of U.S. opposition to the Western Europe-Soviet gas pipeline deal and the sale of American pipe-laying equipment to the USSR.

A Nov. '81 London *Observer* poll found 53% wanting U.S. bases out of Britain, and 57% thinking Reagan's foreign policy made nuclear war more likely. Who was most likely to start a nuclear war? U.S.-29% USSR-35%. But the British weren't unilateral disarmers. By 67-23% they favor an independent nuclear deterrent.

Surveying unemployment in Western Europe, the *Boston Globe* found European youth increasingly believing "rioting and violence are acceptable ways to promote political change." The brief segment on West Germany noted the anti-nuclear movement's roots among the young and suggested they saw a link between the government's inability to provide jobs and its skill in preventing war.

Regular reporting of public opinion surveys abroad would be a welcome feature in U.S. media.

The *Post* partially used a *Globe* report of a Pentagon plan to organize civilian hospitals into a standby system to treat massive military casualties. The omitted portion quoted material explaining the plan to hospital officials: "Large-scale war overseas will probably begin and end very rapidly and produce casualties at a higher rate" than any past war. Physicians for Social Responsibility views this as a limited nuclear war scenario, while the Pentagon insists it reflects the realities of modern conventional weapons. (Can it be that anti-war activists are focusing too much on the least likely danger, nuclear war, and, by default making conventional war seem not so terrible?)

New versions of the Pentagon material cut out

the quick start and finish references, saying the conflict "could probably begin on very short notice."

A favorite criticism of European anti-nuclear demonstrators is that such displays can only take place in the West. When 300,000 Rumanians marched in a government-sponsored demonstration for removing all nuclear weapons from Europe both the *Post* and the *New York Times* placed the story on an inside page.

When the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held the first hearings ever devoted specifically to the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards against diversion of nuclear fuel, the *Post* didn't go. Their AP story focused on senatorial comments, particularly Sen. Hart's call for an export ban until safeguards were sufficient to prevent diversion to weapons-building.

The *Baltimore Sun*'s reporter quoted Richard Kennedy, U.S. envoy to the IAEA, who agreed with a new study's finding that the U.N. goal of detecting military use of nuclear fuel is "not generally attainable." The *Sun* obtained IAEA documents saying it never had been able to determine the worldwide inventory of plutonium: of 86 tons under its responsibility, 52 (about 6,000 bombs worth) is roughly estimated.

The *Sun* also reported a rare message from IAEA officials to their Board of Governors: soon they may be unable to monitor Pakistan adequately. It can now make its own reactor fuel.

The *New York Times* continues its frequent reporting on problems in the nuclear industry. On Dec. 6, for example, it ran an informative story on increasing doubts among experts of their ability to "estimate accurately" the chances of a disastrous failure in many power plants. The same day they



did a long report on problems at a proposed New Mexico nuclear waste site.

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Perhaps uneven is the best quick description of the *Post*. While supplementing deficiencies, let's think of days like the Sunday it had stories on what happened to Reagan's nuclear code card after the assassination attempt, and on Chile bringing nerve gas into the country for possible use against later slain Orlando Letelier. The same day the imaginative Amazon series started. The next day brought fine coverage of the new Pentagon policy of seeking naval superiority over the Soviets.

"The three most important guerrilla groups in El Salvador... have anti-Soviet origins," according to Robert Leiken, a Georgetown professor often critical of Soviet activity. Neither the *Post* nor *New York Times* reported his testimony at an open House committee hearing. Months later an excellent *Times*' analysis of options in El Salvador cited it.

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U.S. scholars have responded very differently to repression of intellectuals in China and the USSR according to historian Merle Goldman whose views were discussed in the *Times*. Although the scale of arrests was spectacularly larger in China than in the Soviet Union, and although the Chinese press regularly reported their disgrace, there was scholarly silence here. She explained that they couldn't face news contrary to what they wanted to believe for those studying China love it, while those studying the USSR hate it. She added that many thought Mao had answers to China's problems, and that some feared jeopardizing future research opportunities.

(The latter sounded familiar. I recall a professor invoking that reason in telling students not to ask the visiting Yugoslav envoy about the then much talked about arrest of Milovan Djilas. Eventually the puzzled envoy wondered why the matter hadn't been raised and proceeded to explain his government's views.)

Goldman's explanation ignores broader factors. Since World War II the Soviets have been defined by most officials and opinion-makers as "the" primary enemy. There are more groups interested in organizing and aiding in anti-Soviet protest. Scholars have overlapping memberships. They may be emigres from Eastern Europe or identifiers with Israel angry at Soviet support of the Palestinians. Israel often suspends operation of West Bank Palestinian universities without much attention or protest here.

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Last August TransAfrica director Randall Robinson claimed that classified Defense Department documents showed that the U.S. knew South Africa was forming hit teams to assassinate African National Congress leaders exiled in nearby black states. He wanted the U.S. to either pressure South

Africa not to act, or warn intended victims. The story, ignored by the *Post* and *Times*, appeared in the *Rand Daily Mail* (Johannesburg) which said the State Department declined comment. Previously the U.S. media had used Robinson-supplied State Department documents on U.S.-South African relations. In this instance he did not have the documents. Finding the *Mail* story at a time the media were filled with unconfirmed reports of Libyan hit teams and events in early martial law Poland, I wonder how consistently the *Post* applies the policy of multiple corroborating sources.

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When Secretary Weinberger told a senate committee why the AWACS sale wasn't a security risk, the *Post* missed a key point. The *Financial Times* reported his forecast that the Soviets would have their own AWACS before any planes were delivered to Saudi Arabia.

When UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi visited Washington, the *Post* gave a flattering account of him in *Style* in addition to medium size news accounts of his views and of the State Department's unexplained statement that UNITA was "a legitimate political force... which must be taken into account." The paper ignored the Black Caucus statement objecting to senior officials seeing the South African-backed rebel. They noted that only the previous month these officials would not meet with Grenada's foreign minister who was in the U.S. They complained the U.S. was among the few nations which don't formally recognize Angola.

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Shortly before martial law began, the Polish media publicized tapes of a secret Solidarity leadership meeting. The story was widely but incompletely reported here. Dan Rather understood the significance, that Solidarity had crossed from its professed and legally-protected union role to a political role. By headline, and the placing and omitting of details, The *Post* deprived readers of key information on some union leaders' goals and tactics.

The *Post* story, "Warsaw Releases Secret Union Tapes," appeared in *The Boston Globe* as "Solidarity tapes talk of power takeover." After the first paragraph, *Post* readers waited until paragraph 23 to learn more of the tapes, the *Globe*'s until five. The *Globe* had more quotes, including Warsaw regional president Bujak's that "the government should be finally overthrown..." The *Post* quoted Walesa on the inevitability of confrontation with the government, but not his statement that "we are choosing the way of making a lightning maneuver," which appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* along with the views of other leaders that a workers' militia be formed (with helmets and clubs) to liberate radio and television.

In martial law's first days the *Post*, like many other media, focused on Solidarity and reports of conflict (usually uncorroborated). The *New York Times*, had the text of Gen. Jaruzelski's speech de-

The Center for National Security Studies charges that the CIA will be virtually exempt from the Freedom of Information Act if the proposed executive order on classification is put into effect. CNSS director Morton Halperin points out that the expansion of the category of information presumed to be classified to include "information relating to intelligence sources and methods" will accomplish what the CIA has been unable to do by legislation, namely, exempt itself from the FOIA. For that reason alone, it deserves full public and congressional debate."

Among other changes in the order, recommended by a "committee composed of representatives of the intelligence community" and now being reviewed by government agencies, are the following:

- the elimination of the requirement to balance the public right to know against the need for secrecy on national security grounds;
- reversal of the presumption in favor of releasing information in cases of doubts on classification;
- a new mandate that anything that is classifiable must be classified; and
- the removal of the requirement to classify documents paragraph by paragraph, as well as the requirements for automatic declassification.

Halperin goes on to say, "The Reagan Administration is breaking sharply with the procedure followed in the drafting of successive new orders by the Eisenhower, Nixon and Carter administrations. It is clear that the aim of the new draft order is not to reduce secrecy but rather to increase it. Every change goes in that direction."

clarifying martial law and a front page analysis noting his twin targets: Solidarity "confrontationists" and still influential old guard Communists. Later they did a separate story on the Military Council's reiteration that there was "no turning back" from the 1980 agreement with Solidarity. A 8 1/2" x 7 1/4" box with background on four of the arrested ex-Communist leaders further alerted readers to that element of the story. The same day the *Post*'s more tenacious readers learned of Gierek's arrest 32 paragraphs into a story. Two days later paragraph 25 of a strike story told of more Communists arrested. That day its editorial page ran a brief Jaruzelski excerpt, but it had nothing about his promise to punish former Party leaders who abused their offices, or his pledge that there would be no turning back to the "methods and practices" used before August, 1980.

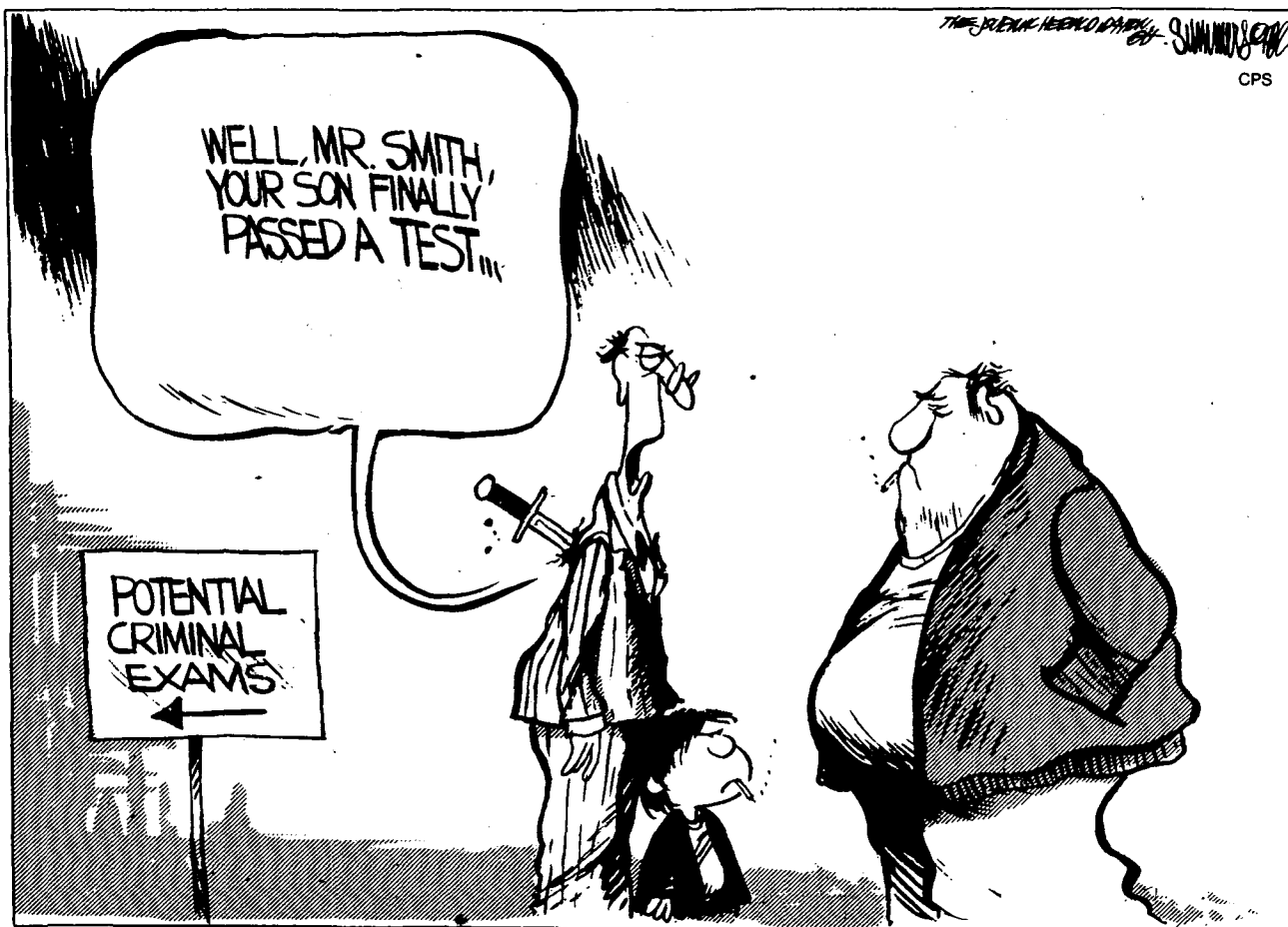
The *Post* buried or ignored these important aspects of the military council's policy.

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Allegations and condemnations dominated media coverage of Libya. But the *Wall Street Journal*'s front page and the *Post*'s back pages told us that oil company personnel in Libya didn't find the threats that were seen so vividly in Washington. Rare was the *Sun* article on how Kadafi's rule benefits average Libyans. Western diplomats found them living well. One's opinion: "Basic needs are met to a greater extent than in any other country." There is free education through the university; 200,000 homes have been built; and, increasingly, peoples' committees run factories and stores (democracy plus inefficiency thus far).

A popular media image: Libya as Soviet surrogate or stooge. Ignored are Kadafi's criticism of the Soviet actions in Afghanistan or his resistance to Soviet requests for use of a Libyan port facility or air bases in the remote desert. Secret Defense Intelligence Agency documents (reported by the *Philadelphia Bulletin*) claimed the Soviets pressured Kadafi by warning that the U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers were prelude to an invasion of Libya and that only a Soviet presence could protect his safety.

A House amendment to the foreign aid bill provided a barometer of how the membership's Libyan views registered on the emotion-reason scale. With the alleged assassination plot in the headlines, it was proposed to condemn Libya and ask the President to report how the U.S. and its allies could use political and economic pressures to curb Libya. Its sponsor strangely asked that "we take this resolution as meaningless as it still is." A letter from Acting Secretary of State Clark asked that it be defeated. The President didn't want his hands tied by an particular measure, and it could cause "reper-





cussions... on the safety and well-being" of Americans still in Libya. It passed 356-46. The *Post* had not a word, and the *Sun*—nothing on Libya and less coverage of the aid bill than the *Post*. The *Congressional Record* confirmed that CBS Radio had the heart of the story.

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An excellent *Post* account of Assistant Secretary of Defense Perle's testimony on intelligence failure in Poland tacked on another significant story in the final paragraph. Perle, a long-time effective supporter of Israel, warned that their government's "insensitivity to U.S. concerns is a very dangerous course to pursue."

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Veteran *New York Times* military analyst Drew Middleton believes that Israeli-South African mili-

tary relations had new significance after Israeli Defense Minister Sharon's ten day visit to South African forces on the Angolan frontier. Interviewed here, Sharon said that South Africa resists Soviet military infiltration but needed more modern weapons and spare parts if it was to defeat Soviet-backed troops. Apparently the U.N. arms embargo has effected South Africa. Israel-South Africa ties are seldom discussed in the U.S. media.

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*In These Times* (an "independent socialist" weekly) reported, prior to martial law, that Solidarity was less militant then the workers it represented, and that time was running out on union and government. In passing, it noted anti-Semitic remarks in a speech by Szczecin union leader Marion Jurc-

zyk. (Many workers protested them.) Our media, usually alert to such things, ignored that part of his speech. (His call for the gallows for parliamentary deputies who he considered traitors brought an indictment for slandering the state.)

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The Pope commissioned a scientific study on the effects of nuclear war. It concluded that "prevention of any form" of it was humanity's only hope. A papal delegation explained the findings to President Reagan in personal terms, explaining that medical facilities would be overwhelmed by casualties from a nuclear exchange and could not treat people as he was treated after his shooting. Remember the two *Post* reporters sent to cover Sugar Ray's White House visit? For this visit a brief AP-based story sufficed for the *Post*.

## ARTHUR HOPPE

I met a man the other day who bought a house. In fact, I saw him do it with my very own eyes.

I was tipped off to the exclusive story by my old friend Milt Haberdash of Haberdash Quality Homes & Guaranteed Used Cars—the latter being a recent addition to Milt's business enterprise due to his interest in automobiles and eating.

"If this is a hoax, Milt..." I said.

"No, honest, it's true," said Milt. "This guy just walks in and says he want to buy a house. So I sold him one."

"That's incredible!" I said.

"It wasn't easy," admitted Milt. "I couldn't find any of my real estate forms to fill in and I've long since forgotten all that stuff about closing escrow and... Aren't I supposed to mention termites someplace?"

"Who knows?" I said.

"Well, I'll have it all together by tomorrow. If you want to see a man buy a house, be at my office at high noon."

Needless to say, wild horses could not have kept

me away. The "buyer," as I think they used to be called, was Buck Ace, a handsome older man in jodhpurs, a leather flying helmet and a white silk scarf.

"You are of the Arab persuasion, I presume, Mr. Ace?" I inquired.

"No, I'm 100 percent American and proud of it," he said.

"Then why are you buying a house?" I asked.

"Because," he said, his grey eyes looking beyond me to some distant horizon few men are privileged to see, "it is there."

"That's incredible!" I said for the second time.

This seemed to please him. "Yes," he said, "I've devoted my life to incredible deeds—swimming the Hellespont right after an eight-course lunch; climbing Mt. Everest with only an abominable snowman as my guide; rowing the Atlantic in a bedpan with two tongue blades... Yet, like Alexander, I had come to feel there were no new worlds to conquer." His eyes blazed excitedly. "Until now."

"But Good Lord, man," I said, "buying a house..."

"It's time to sign," interrupted Haberdash, nervously tugging at Ace's sleeve. "Would you like a blindfold?"

Ace looked at him with disdain. "Just a last cigarette will do," he said.

We waited in respectful silence while Ace finished his cigarette. Then, his hand steady as a rock, he picked up the pen and signed with a flourish—his eyes on the ceiling. "As I learned when I leapt across the Bottomless Chasm of Chingaja-Noor," he explained, "never look down."

In the weeks to come, you will undoubtedly be seeing Ace on "That's Incredible!" and the cover of *Time*. And rightly so. For his feat should be an inspiration to us all, evidence that the spirit of derring-do which made this country great is not yet dead.

May the rest of us Americans find the courage to follow in Buck Ace's footsteps. You first.

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# CHUCK STONE

According to the latest Gallup poll, only 12 percent of the nation's blacks currently approve of President Reagan's performance in the White House compared to 55 percent of the whites.

The 12 percent is significant for two reasons. It represents a drop from last November's 19 percent black approval in the Washington Post ABC-TV poll. And it helps to account for Reagan's national approval dipping below 50 percent for the first time since he was elected to office.

If only 12 percent of the blacks approve of our popular president's stewardship, you would naturally expect black representatives to line up close to that 12 percent or conversely, with the 88 percent disapproval rating (sprinkled with a few "don't knows").

You would also expect the 18 black members of Congress to lead the congressional rain on Reagan's parade. Not necessarily because Reagan is gutting social welfare programs, slashing education subsidies, reducing food stamps, wiping out all job training programs and granting outrageous tax exemptions to private schools to foster racial separation, but because folks are lamenting: "We're so down and out, we can't even lift up our heads and shout, 'We're down and out!'"

Unfortunately, the 18 are not in the anti-Reagan forefront.

Instead, nine white Democratic congressmen are legislatively closer to the nation's 88 percent black opposition to Reagan than all of the 18 black congressional Democrats.

According to an analysis in the Congressional Quarterly, the following nine Democratic congressmen had the highest percentages of opposition to Reagan's unemployment-increasing policies.

Samuel Gejdenson (Conn.)—76%  
Robert W. Kastenmeier (Wisc.)—75%  
Richard Ottinger (N.Y.)—74%  
William Brodhead (Mich.)—74%  
David Bonior (Mich.)—74%  
Dale E. Kildee (Mich.)—74%  
Howard Wolpe (Mich.)—72%  
Robert W. Edgar (Penna.)—72%  
Sidney R. Yates (Ill.)—71%

It's no accident that Michigan, depressed with the nation's highest unemployment rate, places four congressmen among the above nine.

The only black member of Congress nearest to that same nine is Rep. Cardiss Collins (D.-Ill.) with 70 percent. I'm not surprised. Black women frequently exhibit more political courage than their male counterparts.

From this analysis, we shouldn't conclude that opposition is the essence of public policy.

That happens to be one of the black community's original sins—too much opposing and not enough proposing.

What I miss is an envisioned, political coherence from national black leadership.

In this conservative era of diminishing resources and civil rights reversals, black leaders have yet to evolve new economic strategies and new political alliances to interpret to their constituents. Too many of them are still singing "We Shall Overcome," while the rest of the country is wondering, "Overcome what?"

In itself, the concept of "black leader" is an unproductive perpetuation of "separate but equal."

The white community produces bankers, corporation presidents, economists, manufacturers, university presidents and publishers. Black folks reproduce "leaders."

Recently, Clarke R. Watson, a black energy consultant in Denver, penned an article in Newsweek's "My Turn" under the heading, "Blacks Don't Need 'Black Leaders.'"

"Clearly," wrote Clarke, "the 'Black Leader' syndrome is an outworn, debilitating and insulting concept that has survived too long. In every field of endeavor, you will find outstanding minority citizens. Must the press persist in ignoring them?"

Syndicated columnist Nick Thimmesch has taken black leaders to task for statistically misrepresenting facts about racial inequities.

He may be suffering from white ennui with black complaints and an arrogant blindness to the worsening minority plight.

But he is correct in urging "black leaders" to shift the emphasis to more positive approaches, more encouragement and more insistence on personal self-help and community self-determination.

Back in the 1960s, many of us in the black power movement advocated those suggestions, but were promptly labeled, "separatists."

Not much has changed since then.

The black community is still plagued by outworn black leaders who substitute press conferences for productivity.

As long as these black leaders don't have the courage to stand up to Reagan, but scamper off to Africa to avoid coping with domestic crises, their community is doomed to a second-class existence.

Assume you are one of the black 88 percent opposed to Reagan. Who would best represent your interests? A white congressman 72 percent opposed to Reagan or a black congressman only 59 percent opposed?

(Philadelphia Daily News)

# CHARLES McDOWELL

Dear Aunt Gertrude:

I am writing to you as a lady of the Old South. Now don't be insulted; I know you prefer to be known as a woman, and I know you were born in Kentucky, in the ambiguous belt. But I need advice of the kind that a lady of the Old South could give.

Actually, almost any patrician might be able to help me. I think of Amy Vanderbilt, but she is ghostwritten now (and, I suspect, mostly ghost-read). There is Miss Manners in The Washington Post, but she is modern and very funny and might make sport of me.

So you will have to be the one, Aunt Gertrude. My problem is one of dining-table etiquette in the era of packaging. Specifically, how to dispose of package remnants graciously, or at least unobtrusively, during a meal.

I am not talking about eating a plastic-wrapped doughnut in some sleazy diner. I am talking about a meal in a good restaurant or hotel dining room, where the refuse piles up around you in a gross way.

Let me give an example. I was in Richmond for a meeting at one of those chain hotels of considerable pretension. It was a comfortable, amiable, pretty expensive place. The dining room was nice. As I recall, there were tablecloths. I know there were cloth napkins. I was there for breakfast, and the menu was agreeable.

I ordered orange juice, bacon and eggs, an English muffin and coffee. The coffee came first, and I put sugar in it from a little paper envelope and cream in it from a little plastic vial. That left me with the envelope and the vial. I put this refuse at the base of the vase of flowers on the table.

Although I tried not to think about the little torn envelope and the tiny vial, they worried me subconsciously. I was starting my day in a pleasant dining room. In some way that I am familiar with but incapable of explaining without getting over my head in psychology, I wanted this to be the first truly neat day of my life. But there were the discarded envelope and strange little vial with its wet, torn lid fouling up the orderly table.

My orange juice and the rest of breakfast came together. The juice glass was on a paper doily, on a

saucer. When I picked up the glass, the doily stuck to the bottom of it, and then fell into my scrambled eggs. The doily had to go onto the refuse pile.

The butter for the English muffin was wrapped in foil. Well wrapped. Also damp due to condensation after refrigeration. The squishy square of foil—two squares, actually—went onto the refuse pile.

There was a selection of honey, orange marmalade, and strawberry and blackberry jams in cold, damp, plastic containers. Into the pile went a blackberry-jam container. I had a second cup of coffee. Add a sugar envelope and cream vial.

My table looked like a badly kept picnic ground, and I was consciously troubled by it. I remembered writing a column about this same problem many years ago; I got no helpful advice then, and the situation had deteriorated since with the advances in packaging technology.

I believe that the trash pile on my table, and my preoccupation with it, caused me carelessly to set my orange-juice glass on the wedge of orange that had come with it on its saucer. So I spilled a little puddle of orange-juice at the base of the trash pile.

Let me ask you some questions now, Aunt Gertrude.

Shouldn't public dining rooms provide neat little waste receptacles for the debris of their fare?

Without such, what is the proper thing to do with the stuff?

What would you have done if you had been joined for coffee, as I was, by two sophisticated acquaintances, a man and wife, and if they kept staring oddly at the pile of trash and orange-juice puddle? (They drank their coffee black, so I couldn't tell what they would have done with the envelopes and vials. What I did was suddenly scoop up all the trash and put it in my pocket, set the flower vase on the orange-juice puddle, and ask them earnestly if they had ever given any serious thought to why a hotel would serve orange wedges with orange juice. They muttered something noncommittal, and went away nervously.)

I need help, sincerely,  
Your nephew, Charley

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

The Council of State Planning Agencies says it could cost as much as three trillion dollars to repair the nation's public works: highways, bridges, prisons, water and sewer facilities, ports, transit systems and railroads. One author of the report, Pat Choate, says today's politicians are to blame for ignoring maintenance problems that have been forty years in the making. He cites Baltimore, which needs more than \$200 million to rebuild a deteriorating bridge system. With no money for repairs, the city has been forced to impose a 15-mile an hour speed limit and ban all trucks and buses from 17 bridges.

One reason for this crisis is the traditional failure of governmental jurisdictions to depreciate capital assets as is done in the private commercial world. This failure results in a substantial distortion of a jurisdiction's financial situation.

Agriculture experts are worried about the world running out of something more important than oil -- namely topsoil. Overfarming and spreading urbanization is tripping the globe of its topsoil and the lack of fertile cropland could cause widespread famine by the end of the century. Lester Brown, head of the Worldwatch Institute, says the prospect of declining harvests could put the US -- as the world's leading grain exporter -- in the same position as OPEC nations today. "If we don't destroy our cropland base," he says, "it's going to give us more leverage than any military system we could create."

Brown says the soil erosion problem is particularly acute in the Soviet Union which had to import a fifth of its national grain consumption this year. He adds, "They've had three bad years in a row, but my feeling is they're going to have a lot of bad years. Even the good years are going to be bad."

But being the food supplier to a hungry world won't be all that good for the US either, since in a food-scarce world, none will get as much as they want.



# LIFE & RELATED SUBJECTS

Fishing is an excellent way to relax and contemplate the beauty of nature and get in touch with your inner self and maim and kill fish. Many people would be much happier if they went fishing. Take Secretary of State Alexander Haig. He seems awfully tense. I think he should take four or eight years off, buy several hundred six-packs, and go fishing. Al would probably shoot the fish with a bazooka, but what the heck, as long as he doesn't start a nuclear war or something.

It's okay to kill fish. It's not like hunting, where you kill friendly brown-eyed woodland creatures like Bambi and Thumper who talk in squeaky little voices. Fish are bad. They go to the bathroom in public waters, and they eat teenagers, as was demonstrated in the fine nature movies *Jaws I* and *Jaws II*. Besides, fish can't feel anything. I know this because I took a fish apart once, in biology class. The idea was that I would find a little fish heart and a little fish stomach and a little fish nervous system, like the diagram in the biology textbook. I found none of these things. All I found was glop. Fish are nothing but little bags of glop swimming around with fish heads in front, so don't waste your pity.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** When I talk about fish, I am not talking about whales. Whales are mammals: They have feelings and can talk to each other, just like you and me. The only difference between whales and humans is that whales mate for life. Some evil foreign persons, such as the Japanese and the Russians, kill whales. The Japanese use them to make efficient automobiles, which they force Americans to buy so American auto workers will lose their jobs. The Russians don't do anything with their whales. They just use whaling as an excuse to get away from Russia for a couple of months.

If you want to fish, you have to decide whether to catch freshwater fish or saltwater fish. The main saltwater fish are tuna, swordfish, catamaran, eel, oyster, snook, snipe, wahoo, giant clam and serpent. To catch them, you have to go to the Bermuda Triangle in a small boat for several days. If you need more information on this subject, read *The Old Man and the Sea*, a book by Ernest Hemmingway, a famous dead writer. In the book, the old man battles a huge fish for a long time, after which the fish tips the boat over and kills everybody except Ishmael. No, wait, that's *Moby Dick*. Anyway, if you catch a big fish, the government requires you to have your picture taken with the fish hanging next to you in case it was stolen. Then you can take it home and either stuff it and hang it on your wall or, if you have any taste at all, just throw it in the garbage.

The main freshwater fish are bass, bream, guppy, carp, frog, muskellunge, piccolo and crappie. Some people claim there are also trout, but this is a mythical fish, like the Loch Ness Monster. Nobody in recorded history has ever even seen a trout, let alone caught one. I went "trout fishing" once, with my friend Neil and his Uncle Bruce. We'd wander around these streams, and every now and then Uncle Bruce would point to a shallow pool of water that any fool could see contained absolutely no fish. "That's where the trout will be," he'd say, and Neil and I would stand there and not catch fish for several hours while Uncle Bruce went back to the tent to drink. I believe his marriage was in trouble.

Some people still believe in trout. You'll see them out by streams on the first day of trout season, standing shoulder to shoulder. The humorous thing is that they think the way to catch these mythical trout is to wave long strings with fuzzy hooks around in the air. I mean, they hardly ever even put them in the water, for heaven's sake. If there were such a thing as a trout, the only way it would get caught is if it leaped out of the water and grabbed a hook as it flew by.

If you want to fish for fish that actually exist, you'll need either bait or lures. The best bait is worms, which you can find almost anywhere worms are found. All you do is impale the worm on the hook, wait for the little worm screams to die down, and toss it in the water. The fish will come around and nibble on it until it's gone, then they'll give the hook a gentle tug to let you know it's time to send another worm down.

You can also use artificial lures, which are brightly colored plastic or metal things with hooks on them that are scientifically designed so they appear to fish to be brightly colored plastic or metal things with hooks on them. Fish love lures. They gather together in little lure-appreciation groups, called "schools," and howl with laughter as the lures go by. It's their major form of entertainment, and they don't want to lose it, so every now and then they draw lots and the loser has to bite the lure and get caught. This encourages the fishermen to continue.

Feature Associates

**Dave Barry**

## HOW SAFE IS YOUR OFFICE?

**Joel Makower**

In scarcely more than two decades, the office has been transformed into an architectural and aesthetic wonderland. Cold institutional-green walls have given way to rich earth tones and brightly hued panels. Impersonal furnishings have been redesigned to incorporate function with flair, even beauty. The clamor of office machines has yielded to the whispers of electronic circuitry.

Who could have imagined that such handsomely engineered environments could be hazardous to our health?

Nevertheless, a mounting body of evidence indicates that modern offices may be contributing to a large number of ailments for office workers—executives as well as secretaries. The causes are varied and include a wide range of insidious poisons, radiants, carcinogens, allergens, design failures and the changing nature of office work itself:

- Office air pollution has become a major concern to health officials, as well-insulated, energy-efficient buildings combine with inadequate ventilation systems to circulate a potent mix of toxic substances.

- Medical experts are discovering that noise needn't be loud to be troublesome, that furniture needn't be uncomfortable to cause muscle, bone and other physical problems, and that lighting needn't be dim to cause eyestrain. Says a researcher at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: "The scariest thing is that the more hidden the danger, the more serious it usually is."

- The widespread use of computers and other electronic equipment has introduced an entire gamut of unexpected problems, from tired eyes and bad back to cataracts and cancer. Equally serious is a new brand of computer-related stress which has been linked to a large number of physical and psychological problems, not the least of which is coronary heart disease.

Office workers themselves are painfully aware of these problems. A Louis Harris poll taken last year for the Steelcase Company, a manufacturer of office equipment, found widespread dissatisfaction with office conditions. Nearly 60 percent were dissatisfied with temperature, half complained of distracting noise, and significant numbers complained of poor lighting and uncomfortable chairs.

But the most serious health hazard they face—air pollution—is often disguised. "People spend more than three-fourths of their time indoors," said David Berg of EPA. "We can say definitely that for at least a few pollutants, there is greater risk indoors than outdoors."

Berg is cochairman of the Interagency Research Group on Air Pollution, a coalition of a dozen federal agencies concerned about the air inside buildings. The group is studying the effects on human health of more than two dozen potentially harmful air pollutants.

Among the more devastating is radon-222, a radioactive gas emitted from concrete and brick, the

principal building blocks of office buildings. Radon is continually released into the atmosphere. The "tighter" a building—the fewer cracks through which air can pass—the more radon remains inside. Radon has been conclusively linked to lung cancer.

Another potent killer is asbestos, also a cancer-causing substance. About half of all office buildings constructed between 1958 and 1970 used asbestos fibers, mostly for fireproofing and insulation. Over the years, the fibers have come loose and circulate in ventilation systems. The airborne particles can cause asbestosis, a chronic lung ailment, and mesothelioma, a frequently fatal form of lung cancer, as well as cancer of the esophagus, stomach, colon and rectum.

The list goes on: fumes emitted from formaldehyde—used in a wide variety of building materials such as insulation, particle board, plywood, textiles and adhesives—cause burning eyes, coughing, nosebleeds and breathing difficulties. Particles from fiberglass, another insulating material, get sucked into ventilation to cause rashes, hives and scratchy throats. Benzene and toluene, contained in rubber cement and some cleaning fluids, are associated with various blood diseases. Methanol and ammonia, used in many duplicating-machine fluids, can be irritating to the eyes, nose and throat.

Computer terminals in the workplace have contributed to a variety of problems, according to several dozen studies conducted in the United States and Europe. Workers who use computers



# THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

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**THE ESSENTIAL EARTHMAN:** Henry Mitchell on Gardening. This is not just another book on gardening but the thoughts of an enthusiast who comes to the subject with reverence, passion, humor and a sober knowledge of human frailty. The Essential Earthman believes, for example, "a lawn 17 by 20 feet is just fine, if you think a lawnless life is not worth living \*\*\* But I suspect many gardeners would do well to think of something besides grass and the little noisy juggernauts you cut with." This is a collection of many of Mitchell's most popular pieces from the Washington Post. \$12.95

**CHESAPEAKE:** James A. Michener. This is, of course, the book that was the first work of fiction in ten years to make it to the number one spot in the New York Times's best seller list. But its subject matter gives it even greater appeal to those in the Washington area. A fine novel and a way to learn more about our bay. \$3.95

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Middle Atlantic States: ~~\$6.95~~ **\$5.00**

**BICYCLE CAMPING:** A complete, practical and readable guide to the art of camping by bicycle. ~~\$2.95~~ **\$7.00**

**USED CAR PRICES:** 1981 prices for cars, American and foreign, going back seven years. ~~\$2.50~~ **\$1**

**THE BIG DUMMY'S GUIDE TO CB RADIO:** Packed with information for the CBer or potential CBer. Includes a glossary and the ten-code, which you can also use for literary allusions or to amaze your children. ~~\$2.95~~ **REDUCED TO \$1.05** **\$1**



**THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MALCOLM X:** By Peter Goldman. For this second edition of a major work on one of the most important black leaders of this century, the author, a senior editor of *Newsweek*, has added a substantial epilogue which argues convincingly that three of the five accomplices in Malcolm X's assassination in 1965 are still free, while a fourth is serving a short sentence for an unrelated offense. Meanwhile, despite the efforts of William Kunstler and others, two men who are probably innocent remain in prison "wasted like pawns sacrificed in somebody else's wild chess game," as one of them puts it. ~~\$7.95~~ **\$6.00**

**THE OFFICIAL SCRABBLE PLAYERS DICTIONARY:** The book used in tournament play; a dictionary of two to eight letter words that will settle every argument. ~~\$3.75~~ **\$2.00**

**DISCO DANCING:** Step-by-step guide with photographs and diagrams. If you are to do this, this is how. ~~\$4.95~~ **\$3.00** **\$2.00**

**EVERY ROOM A GARDEN:** How to decorate your home with plants. Where to put them, how to care for them, how to light them, what to do when things go wrong. Over 300 illustrations. ~~\$6.95~~ **\$2.00**

**THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE AND SELF-HELP:** The first section contains a collection of 79 articles, written by experts and practitioners, which describe the therapies, how they were developed and what they do. Where necessary these articles are cross-referenced. Covers such subjects as acupuncture, astrological diagnosis, biofeedback, copper therapy, Gestalt, health foods, massage. The second section is a unique directory of aids and services available to the prospective patient and includes sections on associations and societies, journals, practitioners and centers. ~~\$6.95~~ **\$5.00**

**NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF HOUSE PLANTS.** The NYT gives you the way to keep the inside of your house green. ~~\$2.95~~ **\$1.00** **\$1**

**THE BASEBALL TRIVIA BOOK:** A commanding collection of facts and anecdotes from the colorful history of America's favorite sport. Hold your own in the next conversation about baseball. ~~\$1.95~~ **\$1.00**

**A LEGAL GUIDE FOR LESBIAN AND GAY COUPLES:** This practical book covers all the important legal aspects of living and working together as a gay/lesbian couple. Straight-forward information explains the legal options and alternatives of child custody and visitation rights, relating to former spouses, foster children and adoption, buying and selling houses, transferring deeds, moving on, dividing property, living-together agreements and planning for death. ~~\$10.95~~ **\$8.00**

**NEW DIRECTIONS IN SOLID WASTE PLANNING:** This monograph will alter your thinking about how we handle our garbage. By a former director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Neil Seldman. ~~\$2.50~~ **\$1.00**

**THE BUSY PEOPLES NATURALLY NUTRITIOUS DECIDEDLY DELICIOUS FAST FOODBOOK:** If you have time to read the title of this book you have time to make just about any recipe in it. Originally priced at \$4.95, a few copies are left at \$1 each.

**THE WHOLE AIR WEATHER GUIDE:** THIS handy little guide gives you all those facts about the weather you're apt to forget. Originally \$2.95 now just \$1.

**THE ANTI-NUCLEAR HANDBOOK:** A useful collection of factual information put together in semi-comic book style. ~~\$2.95~~ **\$2.00**

**THE COMPLETE BOOK OF ROLLER SKATING.** Lessons, equipment, competition and how to dance on skates. ~~\$6.95~~ **\$3.00**

**PICTORIAL PRICE GUIDE TO AMERICAN ANTIQUES:** Almost 6000 objects in 300 categories illustrated and priced. This is the second and enlarged edition of a popular work by Dorothy Hammond. Entries are keyed to a dealer or auction price, the year the piece was sold and the location or state. ~~\$8.75~~ **\$5.00** **\$3.00**

**HOW TO FIX YOUR BICYCLE:** Says Bicycling magazine: "For the aficionado who wants a handy reminder or the 14-year old with his first 'real' bike, we recommend How To Fix Your Bicycle. Simple language and diagrams. ~~\$1.95~~ **\$1.00**





"HEY! I CAN FEEL IT—WE'RE TURNING AROUND!"

with video display terminals have complained of eyestrain, dulling of vision, changes in color perception, back and neck pains, cataracts, stomach aches and stress substantial enough to cause a variety of other ailments, including coronary heart disease.

Perhaps most surprising were the findings last year by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. A study there found that women clerical workers are much more likely to develop heart disease than professional women, housewives or male clericals.

The office doesn't have to be unhealthy, however. And something far less than a total re-transformation of the workplace may help to keep office workers clear of catastrophe. In fact, a few cautionary practices will produce many dividends in health for employers and employees alike:

- **Lights:** Reducing lighting, a form of energy conservation, can lead to eyestrain and increase accidents. On the other hand, too-bright lighting can also cause eye problems, although studies show that it increases productivity. The kind of light is also important. There is increasing evidence that spending long hours under fluorescents can increase stress and reduce resistance to colds and disease.

- **Noise:** Researchers are finding that loud noise isn't the only noise that can cause problems. In fact, workers can function nearly as well in a room with continuous noise as in a room that is always quiet. It's when the silence is interrupted by sporadic noise like the ringing of telephones or nearby conversations that productivity drops and stress rises.

- **Design:** "Open" or "landscaped" offices—with floor-to-ceiling walls replaced by "space dividers"—contribute to noise, crowding and poor air circulation. A study in California, which followed workers as they moved from a conventional walled office into a new "open" office, found that in the newer facility, "people felt insecure, unrelated, alienated, passive and vulnerable."

Not surprisingly, activism among office workers has grown along with increased awareness of offices' shortcomings. Earlier this year an agreement was formed between Working Women, a national association of office workers, and the 650,000-member Service Employees International Union. Their aim is to organize secretaries and clericals, and to lobby, among other things, for improved working conditions.

A number of other labor unions also are trying to organize the estimated 20 million non-union American office workers. Included are such traditionally industrial unions as the Teamsters, the auto workers and the machinists, all of which are facing declining memberships because of the decreasing industrial workforce.

Many of the solutions being proposed by these groups parallel the solutions aimed at solving blue-

collar workplace maladies. Examples include worker participation in the design of offices and office work; "quality circles" based upon successful Japanese models in which workers take an active part in making day-to-day decisions; and "right-to-know" movements aimed at informing workers about potential hazards.

"It's about time we took a closer look at these

things," says Karen Nussbaum, president of Working Women. "I think we've been mistaken into thinking that the hazards of the office are less important than those in industry. One problem is that the hazards in offices are invisible. They make you think that you are going crazy, while you assume that it is just the nature of the job."

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## BODY BEAT

The University of Illinois is offering free condoms to male students. About fifteen students a day are taking advantage of the offer.

David Edelman of the International Fertility Research Associates is testing a new birth control device called the collatex sponge. The sponge is a wafer of polyurethane soaked in spermicide. When placed over a woman's cervix during intercourse, the sponge traps and kills sperm before they can reach the womb. The sponge is currently designed as a non-prescription item.

Although the evidence is still preliminary, there are growing suggestions that high levels of aluminum can concentrate in the brains of elderly people and lead to neuro-

logical degeneration. At the University of Toronto, Donald Crapper has uncovered evidence that as little as seven milligrams of aluminum can induce symptoms similar to senility, if absorbed on a daily basis. The average American takes in about twenty milligrams a day. One of the dangers seems to be that older people take large quantities of buffered aspirin and arthritis pain formulas, which contain significant quantities of aluminum.

The American west has the highest suicide rate in the nation and historian Howard Kushner, who's been studying suicide patterns of the last century, thinks the heavy western migration has something to do with it. Since the late 1800s, Kushner says, the west has been "the next to the last stop" for those who desperately want to change their lives. Some of these then commit suicide when they realize that moving doesn't solve their problems.

A survey of chief executives of more than 500 companies shows that more than three-quarters would hire someone over the age of 50 -- quite a change from only a few years ago, when executives were considered washed up at that age. Ninety percent of the executives said that older workers perform better and are more committed to their jobs than their younger colleagues.





## More Ward Four

### CARTER BARRON EAST

Sharon Parker reports that the Carter Barron East Neighborhood Association is forming a neighborhood watch program. CBENA has already identified 26 block captains out of the entire 27 blocks in its area. Block captains have received information on the program and were to have canvassed their blocks by the end of last month.

### TAKOMA SEEKS TRAFFIC CURBS

Takoma residents approved several new traffic control measures at a recent community-wide meeting. Residents voted to push for four-way stop signs at 8th & Elder, a temporary traffic diverter at 8th & Geranium and traffic circles at Fern and Dahlia along 8th St. Residents also voted to close 5th Street at Blair Road, a dangerous intersection that crosses Dahlia St.

In addition, residents voted to restate their support for installing a traffic light at Piney Branch Road and Cedar St. to make it safer for school children to cross.

### WARD FOUR NOTES

The blood program of the American Red Cross will be servicing the Neighbors Inc. area from Tifereth Israel Congregation one Sunday early this spring. Donors will be scheduled in advance. Anyone interested in helping to recruit donors or in volunteering that Sunday can call Dena Greenstein, 726-2386. .... Over 100 people attended an open house for Neighbors Inc. at the Giancola home in Demcember. .... Neighbors Inc. would like to issue a directory of neighborhood services. Volunteers are needed to work on compiling the information and publishing the directory. Call Bruce Waxman at 328-5415 (w) or 882-6236 (h). .... Neighbors Inc. is planning to hold a citywide conference on neighborhood access to the media sometime this spring. The conference will include discussions on how well the media covers local news, as well as workshops on ways that community groups can gain better access. If you would like to help or to offer ideas, call Carl Bergman at 726-6415 or the NI office at 726-3454.

The Petworth Library will be closed for four months so the city can renovate it, including modifications to provide access for the handicapped.

## Regular Community Meetings

**ANC 4A:** 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm, usually 4th Dist. Police Headq'trs. Office: 5804 Ga. Ave., Phone: 291-9341. Chairperson: Harry Jones, 726-1979.

**ANC 4B:** 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm, usually 4th Dist. Police Headq'trs. Office: 7826 Eastern Ave., Room 16, Phone: 726-7292. Chairperson: Rose Ann Lee: Home, 526-7587; Work: 334-7054.

**ANC 4C:** 1st Wed., 7:30 pm at ANC Office, 3905 Ga. Ave., NW., 723-6670. Chairperson: Phyllis Jones: Home, 723-7724; Work, 755-9035.

**ANC 4D:** 1st Tues., 7:30 pm at ANC Office, 847 Upshur St., NW, 829-3614. Chairperson: Lorenzo Allen: Home, 723-1921; Work, 675-5416.

**Brightwood Community Assoc.** Second Tues., Sept. - June except Dec., 7:00 pm, 4th Dist. Police Headq'trs. For info: Evelyn Gray, 882-2719.

**Carter Barron East Neighborhood Assoc.** First Tues., Sept. - June, 8:00 pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 16th & Gallatin Sts., NW. For info: Mrs. Gibney, 726-6237.

**Citizens for the Preservation of Neighborhoods.** Members notified of meetings at the 4th Dist. Police Headq'trs. For info: Larry Chatman, 722-0884.

**Civic League of North Portal Estates.** For info: Mrs. Evelyn Jones, 726-1979.

**Historic Takoma.** Meetings irregular. Bd. of Directors meets once monthly. Public invited. For info: Ellen Marsh, 270-5348.

**Plan Takoma.** Meeting locations decided at each previous meeting. For info: Randy McCathren, 829-0336.

**Progressive Neighbors.** Second Tues., Sept. - June, 7:30 pm, Rabaut Junior High Rec. Center. For info: Leopold Hall, 723-0835.

**Shepherd Park Citizens Assoc.** Third Mon. except holidays, Sept. - May except Dec., 8 pm. For info. & meeting place: Mrs. Branch, 722-1452.

## WARD SIX

### BIKE PROBLEMS

Local bike activists have met with the Capitol police to discuss problems caused by and to bicyclists on the Capitol grounds. The Capitol police have agreed to issue more warning tickets and pay attention to cyclists who disobey traffic laws. They point out two particularly hazardous intersections. One is the intersection of South West Drive and 1st Street SW. Cyclists frequently do not stop at the stop sign there, which is at the base of Capitol Hill. The other spot is the traffic circle in the same area, where Maryland Avenue intersects 1st St. SW. The police noted that many cyclists come down South West Drive, then ride the wrong way around the circle into the oncoming traffic of 1st Street, which is one-way going north.

### CAPITOL HILL NOTES

The city council has passed legislation naming an alley and small park between 11th & 12th, East Capitol & Independence after deceased neighborhood activist Burce Sladen. .... The SE Neighborhood Commission has endorsed a bike lane on 4th St. SE but not on 6th St, and has asked the Department of Transportation for an explanation of the bikeway on the latter street. The ANC also wants to know how a 65-foot no-parking area was established in front of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in the 800 block of North Carolina Ave. without notice to the commission. Residents are complaining about the loss of parking space.

### CAPITOL HILL ARTS WORKSHOP

The Capitol Hill Arts Workshop will be ten years old this year. .... In March, CHAW will be presenting *Bus Stop* by William Inge. ... The recent production of *Guys and Dolls* grossed over \$10,000 with net proceeds going to CHAW's Community Service Program of scholarships and free performances. CHAW now plans to have an annual musical. .... CHAW has received a \$15,000 matching grant from the DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities.



## CITY LOG

**NEW VENDORS FEES PROPOSED.** The mayor's task force on vending has proposed new fees for street vendors. Vendors would be required to pay a \$250 annual license fee, compared to current fees that run from \$15 to \$50. Vendors would pay an annual space rental of \$750 for sidewalk vendors and \$1500 for roadway vendors in lieu of sales taxes. Door-to-door vendors would continue to pay sales taxes. Currently the city gets about \$160,000 a year from vendors. If the task force recommendations were followed, the city would get \$3-6 million a year.

**NEW EVICTION RESTRAINT:** The city council has passed legislation that would prohibit landlords from evicting tenants on any day the weather bureau predicts that the temperature will not exceed 20° in the next 24 hours.

**MORTONS CLOSES:** Morton's Department Store at 7th & D NW, a downtown fixture for 46 years, has closed its doors. President Mortimer Lebowitz blamed the closing on a "diminishing market." He added that his store in the 1200 block of F St. is "doing very well."

**ELECTION HEARINGS:** The council's committee on government operations will conduct hearings on last fall's election on Feb. 25-26 at 10 am in the council chambers. The purpose of the investigation is to determine exactly what caused procedural breakdowns on election day, who was responsible, and what action is necessary to correct the problems in the future. Only witnesses invited by the committee will be permitted to testify.

**GAMBLING SLATED FOR SUMMER:** Brant Coopersmith, local gambling czar, predicts that the city's lottery will open for business in about six months. The plan is to start with the so-called "instant game" that would protect the city against the chance of a sudden huge payoff. Coopersmith expects the city to gross about \$80 million a year from the instant game alone, with about 30% of that amount going to the government. Several legal hassles have developed that have delayed the start of betting and there are unresolved questions, such as how to allocate sales outlets at a corner that has, say, two mom & pop stores; what sort of notice the gambling board will have to give neighborhoods of its



## City Council meetings

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 2 (Jan. 21)  
16 (Feb. 4)

MARCH 2 (Feb. 18)  
16 (Mar. 4)  
30 (Mar. 18)

APRIL 20 (Apr. 8)

Easter Recess April 9-18, 1982

MAY 4 (Apr. 22)  
18 (May 6)

JUNE 1 (May 20)  
15 (June 3)  
29 (June 17)

JULY 13 (July 1)  
27 (July 15)

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FEBRUARY 9 (Feb. 3)  
23 (Jan. 17)

MARCH (7:30p.m.) 9 (Mar. 3)  
23 (Mar. 17)

APRIL 6 (Mar. 31)

27 (Apr. 21)

MAY (7:30p.m.) 11 (May 5)  
25 (May 19)

JUNE 8 (June 2)  
22 (June 16)

JULY (7:30p.m.) 6 (June 30)  
20 (July 14)

AUGUST RECESS  
August 1-31, 1982

### Office of the Secretary -

All meetings, which are held in Room 500 of the District Building at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., begin at 10:00 a.m. except for every fourth Legislative Session which meets at 7:30 p.m.

(The deadline dates for filing of committee reports and proposed legislation are indicated in parenthesis next to the meeting date.)

intent to establish outlets; and how to regulate bingo, which will be limited to non-profit organizations.

**DRUNK DRIVING:** Polly Shackleton has introduced legislation that would lower the presumptive level of intoxication in traffic cases from .1 percent blood-alcohol level to .05 percent. The bill would also remove the existing presumption that a driver is not intoxicated when the blood-alcohol level is between 0 and 0.5 percent. A .05 percent level is the equivalent of about 2.5 ounces of hard liquor (or two cans of beer or 1 1/2 glasses of wine) consumed in one hour by a 140-pound person. The bill would also make a .10 percent and above blood-alcohol level irrebuttable proof, not just a presumption, that the driver is under the influence of alcohol.

**BARRY INCREASES HIS SCHOOL BUDGET:** After lobbying by school officials and parent activists, Mayor Barry backed off his initial \$250 million mark for the DC schools, adding another \$14 million to his budget. School board member and former board president Eugene Kinlow said that the mayor "is moving in the right direction." The move was closely tied to the political situation, with the mayor seeking to repair some of the damage his anti-school policies have done, while at the same time making it clear that the added money would come out of the hide of his earlier plan to set aside \$10 million a year to help retire the city's longterm debt. Said Kinlow, "It's a bare-bones budget, and that's not the way to treat education. There's no way all the things Barry proposes can be done with a \$10 million increase over the current budget." City council member and mayoral candidate Betty Ann Kane called Barry's plan "another election-year shell game" that would fail to cover the expected teachers's salary increase.

**OTHER LOTTERIES GOING WELL;** Despite a shaky start and some notable scandals, the nation's 15 state operated lotteries are booming with revenues expected to rise 20 percent this year to a record \$3.6 billion. Illinois receipts are running 50 percent above a year ago, New York is up 70 percent. Apparently, gimmicks like million dollar jackpots and instant winners have attracted new players, and some say the recession may even be helping as people with less money go for the big payoff.

**DIXON TO RUN FOR CHAIR AGAIN:** Arrington Dixon announced that he will run for reelection as city council chair rather than seek the mayoral position.

**GERTRUDE STEIN TO ENDORSE:** The Gertrude Stein Democratic Club plans an early mayoral endorsement strategy to put the gay political organization's full resources behind its chosen candidate. The club also plans a voter registration drive, saying its goal is to register 3,128 new voters -- double the victory margin of the 1978 mayoral primary. The club's councilmanic endorsements will be made in late spring or early summer.

**JARVIS TO RUN:** Following news of Arrington Dixon's decision not to run for mayor, Ward Four city councilmember Charlene Jarvis announced that she was running. Dixon is also from Ward Four.

**KENNEDY CENTER EXPANSION STOPPED:** Within weeks of it being announced that the Kennedy Center was thinking about adding 60 feet to each end of its building, center chair Roger Stevens announced that the plan had been abandoned because of the cost. Said Stevens, "Our plans of empire are beyond our means today." Estimates came in at \$58-65 million instead of the \$20-25 million anticipated.

### PEOPLE

• City Council chair Arrington Dixon and his wife, Sharon Pratt Dixon, announced they were getting a divorce. Sharon Dixon has long been considered a major political influence on her husband. She is the Democratic national committeewoman from DC.

• Maggie Ronkin has been named the new executive director of the Washington Area Bicyclists Association. She was formerly with the Center for Science in the Public Interest. .... The new president of WABA is Monica Maxwell.

• Washington lawyer William A. Borders Jr. entered a plea of innocent on bribery conspiracy charges. Borders has temporarily stepped aside as head of the DC Judicial Nominating Commission. The indictment charged Borders with soliciting \$150,000 to affect the outcome of a federal court case in Florida.

• Vince Reed has been nominated by the mayor to be a member of the UDC board of trustees. He also will leave the Reagan administration to become chief of communications and schools services for the Washington Post.

• Former police chief Butell Jefferson has been named director of John Ray's campaign for mayor.

• Vivian Cunnigham has been named secretary of the city council, replacing John P. Brown. She was formerly assistant secretary of the council.

**CONDO REVERSION:** The Washington Post reported last month that because of the tight housing situation, some condo developers are renting their units rather than have them go vacant. Says developer Mike Brenneman, "I don't think any developer is particularly anxious to say to the whole world, 'Hey, I can't sell my stuff, so I'm renting it,' but they're doing it."

**TENANTS TAKE OVER NE PROJECT:** Kenilworth Courts, a NE housing project with 464 units is now being run by the tenants. The unique arrangement began last month and was the culmination of a long effort to create tenant management. The tenant managers will have a \$250,000 budget from rents and subsidies with which to work.

**FEDERAL OFFICE USE HERE TO DROP?:** The head of the General Services Administration has urged the White House to adopt a 20 percent reduction in federal office usage over the next five years, saying it could save more than \$800 million. The change would come about by reducing the space allotted to each worker from 167 square feet to 135 square feet. Commercially, the average runs



100-128 square feet per worker. The move, if approved, could have a dramatic impact on the Washington area. About half the federal office space here is rented. A 20% reduction would amount to nearly 4.5 million square feet less office space being leased by the federal government.

**SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DECLINES:** According to a Post story last month, total DC public school enrollment is down 21% from 1977 levels. Black enrollment has declined 22%, white enrollment 25%, while latino and other is up 12%. The number of white children enrolled in private schools has gone up 29% since 1976 while the number of blacks in private schools has gone up 7.6%.

**EATON ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT:** Newly elected school board member David Eaton has been elected president of the school board by a 6-5 vote of that body. Eaton was supported by members David Hall, Wanda Washburn, Nathaniel Bush, Linda Cropp, and Frank Smith. He defeated Eugene Kinlow who was supported by Barbara Simmons, Calvin Lockridge, John Warren and Bettie Benjamin.

**CRIME UP IN 1981:** Major crime went up about 7 percent in 1981 according to the most recent crime statistics. Robberies were a big factor in the increase, rising 17 percent. Rapes were down 7 percent, homicides up 13%, aggravated assaults up 7 percent, burglaries up four percent, larcenies up 5 percent, and auto theft up five percent. Overall, the crime increase is less than that recorded in 1980 (13%) and in 1979 (11%). The crime rate is still about 19% lower than it was at the city's historical peak, which was 1969.

**ARBITRATION PLAN:** The DC Superior Court will try out a voluntary arbitration program that will permit civil suits to be handled by arbitration no matter how big the amount of money involved. The arbitrator would be selected randomly from a list maintained by the court. Either side could appeal the case to a judge or jury, subject to having to pay trial costs if the outcome does not substantially affect the suit's disposition. The arbitration hearing would be heard in 90 days and a decision would have to be rendered in 15 days. Either side can hire an attorney but doesn't have to. It is predicted that the program could reduce the 18,000 cases now heard in court by about 1000 annually.

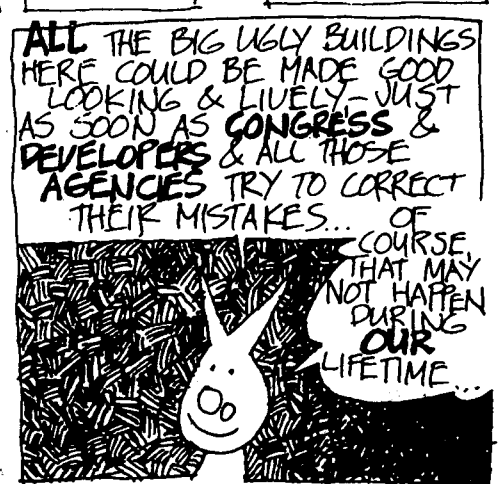
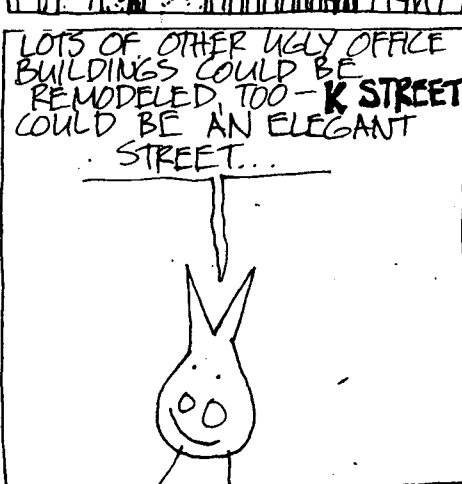
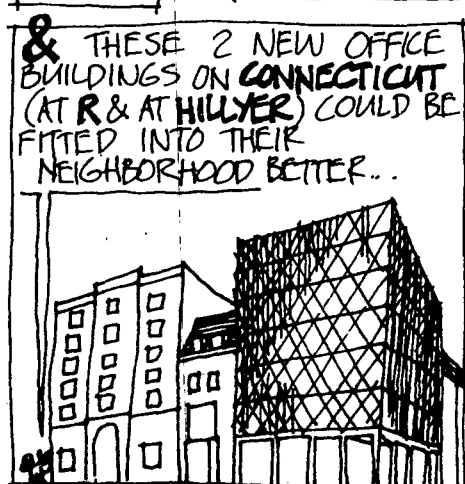
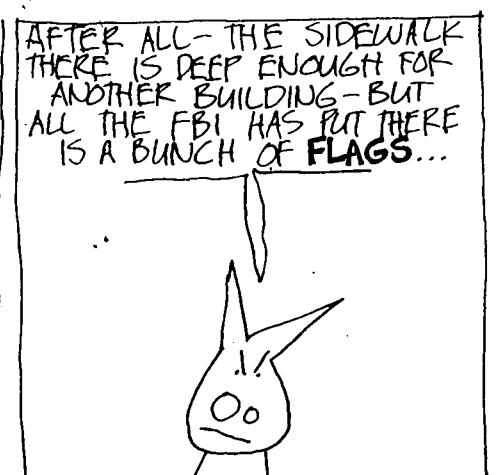
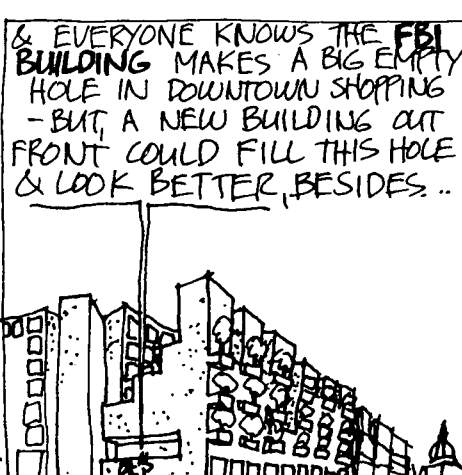
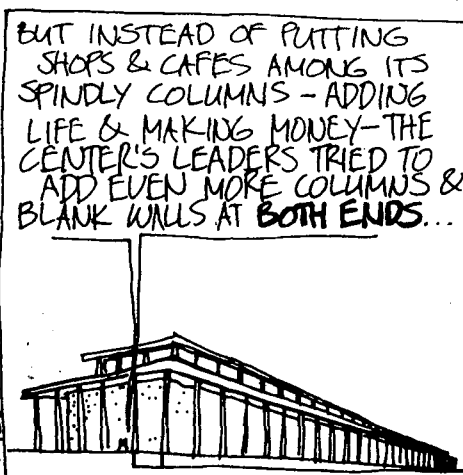
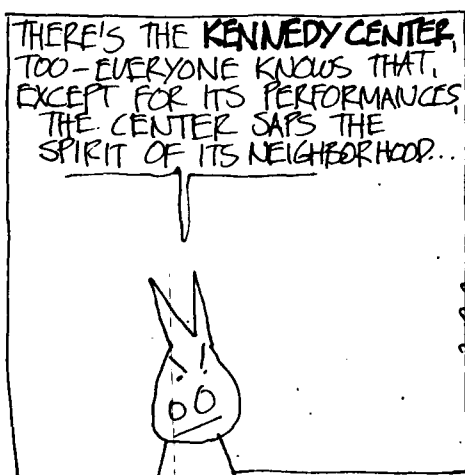
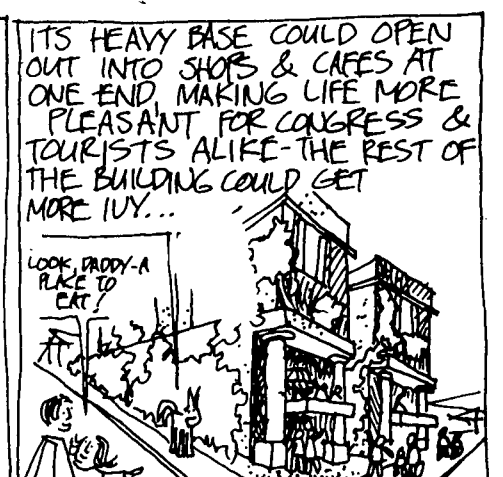
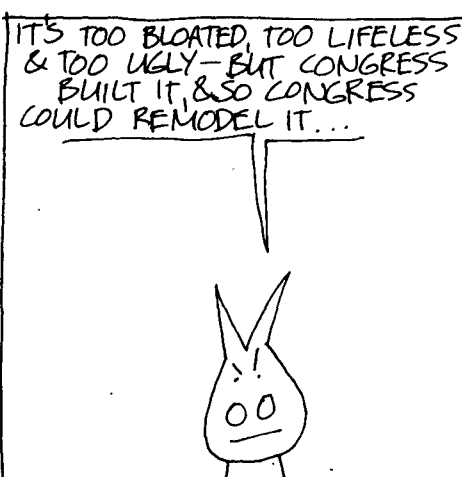
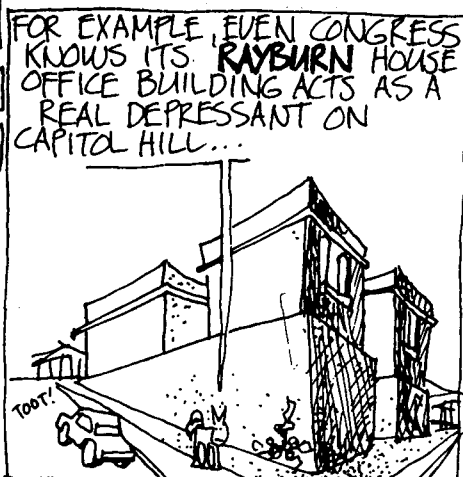
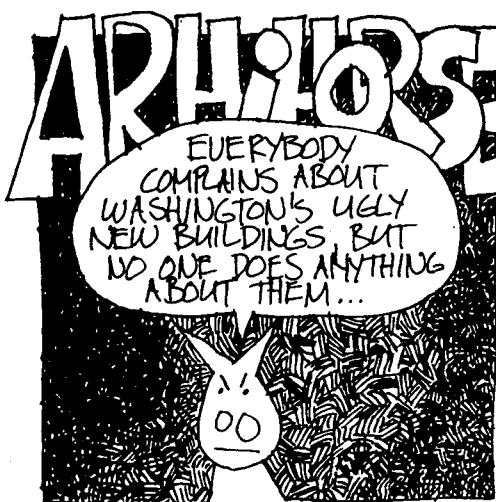
**LAWYERS ASKED TO COMPENSATE FOR FEDERAL CUTBACKS:** Lawyers practicing in the city are being asked to provide free services and money to help fill the gap caused by federal cutbacks in funding for local legal services programs. The DC Judicial Conference's Standing Committee on Civil Legal Services wrote members of the bar, describing the crisis in funding, including the loss of \$702,000 this year in monies for the major DC recipients of federal funds, such as the Neighborhood Legal Services Program. The organization suggested five ways in which attorneys can help:

- Contribution of free services.
- Monetary contributions to local legal programs.
- Monetary contributions for a coordinating office to recruit lawyers willing to accept legal services referrals and court appointment in noncriminal cases.
- Sabbatical leave from law firms to teach at the Antioch Law School or DC Law Students in Court clinical programs.
- Creation or support of a law firm neighborhood office to serve the poor.

**MAYOR PROPOSES BUDGET:** Marion Barry proposed a \$1.76 billion budget for FY 1983. This represents an eleven percent increase in total city spending. The budget would be financed in part by a \$34 million increase in real estate tax revenues and a \$64 million increase income tax revenues. Other sources of revenue include a 32 percent increase in the city's average bill for water and sewer services, \$26 million in revenues from the lottery, increased auto and permit fees and increased sales tax revenues.

Among the new services and programs provided in the budget are the following:

- The city's allocation to the Department of Housing would go up 70% to compensate for loss of federal funds. Much of this money would be spent in Ward Eight.
  - The budget for the Commission on Arts and Humanities would go up 69%.
  - The Office of Aging would get an extra \$1 million to extend services.
  - Spending on the convention center would go up six times, to \$7.6 million, in anticipation of its opening in January of next year.
- The total city workforce would go down to 29,000 through attrition and elimination of empty positions.
- The fire department would get an extra \$225,000 to add five fire inspectors and improve ambulance service.
- The police department budget would, after allowing for inflation, essentially stay at current levels.



## DC INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

PLACE	DATES	TIME	DAYS
<u>Municipal Center</u>			
Room 1046	January 4-April 15	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Monday-Friday
Room 2053	March 15-April 15	4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Monday-Friday
Room 2053	March 15-April 15	8 a.m.-noon	Saturdays
<u>District Building</u>			
Lobby	March 1 - April 15	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Monday-Friday
<u>Public Library</u>			
Woodridge Branch	March 2-April 13	9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	Tuesdays
Ft. Davis Branch	March 2-April 13	9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	Tuesdays
Watha T. Daniel Br.	March 2-April 13	9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	Tuesdays
Cleveland Pk. Br.	March 2-April 13	1 p.m.-9 p.m.	Tuesdays

# THE DC BOOKSHELF



## CITIFAX: Facts & figures about DC

**CITIFAX:** In invaluable collection of facts and figures about DC that you'll find nowhere else. Plus a listing of citywide and ward groups. Topics covered in maps and charts include poverty, industrial land use, per capita income, gross income by wards, office rental rates, school test scores 1975-1980, school enrollment, teachers salaries, comparison of school budget with suburban jurisdictions, private school enrollment by wards, tax revenue by source 1970-1980, tax revenues lost due to the federal presence, changes in the recreation budget, wards and neighborhood commissions, DC neighborhoods, city council committees, comparison of business taxes with other cities, land use in DC by type, recreation and leisure activity sites by ward, average house assessments by neighborhoods, comparison of housing sales prices with other metro areas, results of initiatives and referenda, presidential votes, ward results 1980, 1980 election results, population figures, Metro ridership by month, change in ridership to downtown, prior mode of Metro riders, causes of death. All this for only \$2.00

**YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON:** A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95.

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**CAPTIVE CAPITAL:** Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," Bryce Nelson of the LA Times. "An excellent gift," Bill Raspberry in the Washington Post. "Must Reading," Afro-American. "A joy to read," Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune.

**NOTICE:** The Gazette has secured the rights to "Captive Capital" and can now offer it to its readers 40% off the list price of \$10. For Gazette readers: \$6!

**BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.** The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3.

**PUBLIC BANKING: A MODEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.** A monograph on how to alter the city's banking system by William Batko of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. \$1.

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**A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WASHINGTON STUDIES AND DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR LOCAL COLLECTIONS:** This is a revised and enlarged edition of an outstanding bibliography of Washington materials that has been out of print for several years. It has been compiled and annotated by Perry G. Fisher of the Columbia Historical Society and Linda J. Lear of George Washington University. There are nearly 350 entries in the new edition, as well as updated descriptions of the major local collections of Washingtoniana. \$6.

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**ALLEY LIFE IN WASHINGTON: Family, Community, Religion and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970.** By James Borchert. Borchert challenges conventional wisdom that the impact of the city led to the breakdown of migrants' social institutions. Borchert shows how Washington's alley dwellers adapted patterns that permitted continuity and survival in an often harsh environment. The male-headed nuclear family composed the fundamental unit in this urban subculture, but extended families, kinship networks, alley communities, and folk and religious traditions continued to provide coherence and to help alley dwellers cope with the rigors of everyday life. Forgoing outside assistance, these self-reliant people adjusted to their limited incomes and tiny quarters by using folk cures, remedies, and food sources, as well as by devising ingenious furniture. These crowded but isolated and homogeneous populations were able to shape close-knit communities, with social hierarchies which administered aid and comfort to the needy, but which also punished transgressors. This book is being sold by the Gazette at 20% off list price. \$14.80.



## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear -----,

Thank you for your recent suggestion that I should give you some money.

Due, however, to the large number of national organizations and out-of-state politicians who feel the same way, it has been necessary to establish some priorities.

Effective immediately, first priority will be given to those national organizations and out-of-state politicians who publicly commit themselves to the cause of statehood for DC.

If your organization or politician is one of these, please let me know so I can move your request from the bottom of the pile in which it now resides.

Yours in wine and cheese,

**CAPITAL BUDGET:** In his capital budget, Mayor Barry cut his request by more than a half over last year's. This is the smallest capital budget in years, due to limits on city borrowing placed on DC by the Reagan administration. The change resulted in several previously planned projects being dropped from the capital improvements program at least temporarily, including renovation of Langley and Jefferson Junior High schools. Improvements on several housing projects have similarly been postponed as is additional construction at the Van Ness campus of UDC. Over half the money proposed would be spent on transportation, including \$19 million in contributions for construction of the Green Line and \$3 million for Metrobus improvements. Among the other items in the capital budget were funds to allow the city to convert old schools into office space, money for the fire department to improve station houses, street construction at Ft. Lincoln, a new youth center, improvements at Lorton and other institutions.

**REACTION TO BUDGET:** Almost immediately, the mayor's budget came under fire. Here are some of the criticisms:

- Common Cause said that the budget again does not include a summary document adequate for the needs of the general public. Common Cause has recommended a shorter document written in jargon-free text and the provision of more meaningful figures.
- City council chair Arrington Dixon proposed adding \$16.2 million to the budget for the public schools by making a 3% cut in

administrative costs by a group of city agencies. Budget director Gladys Mack said the proposal would "do great violence to the budget" and lead to layoffs.

- City councilmember and mayoral candidate Betty Ann Kane said she is unalterably opposed to a 34% increase in water and sewer rates and took shot at Barry's other proposed fee increases. "Perhaps what is most disturbing about this budget," Kane said "is that it goes back on the promise made by the Barry administration to retire the city's debt in an orderly and faithful way." In his budget, the mayor did not include his previous plan to retire the city's \$400-million long term debt by putting aside \$10 million a year.

- John Wilson, chair of the council's finance and revenue committee, said he would oppose the Barry tax and fee plan. Said Wilson, "I'm not willing to raise a single dime except to eliminate the deficit. It's important to begin stabilizing the finances of the city."

- Several critics said they thought the Barry revenue projections were too optimistic and councilmember and mayoral candidate John Ray accused the mayor of playing "tricks." Councilmember Jerry Moore said he doubted citizens would spend \$26 million on the lottery.

• **THORNS ATOP THE FRANK SHAFFER-CORONA MEMORIAL WREATH TO MARION BARRY** for including in this year's distribution of unincorporated business tax forms a photocopy of two articles that speak about his interest in business development. One of them was headed "Marion Barry Takes A Stand for Jobs and Business." If Ronald Reagan had done something similar, it would have been a major scandal.

**ROSES TO THE NORTHERN STAR**, the new black biweekly attempting to be born. The preview issue was an excellent job, and while the economics of this venture are not too bright the product is encouraging.

**THORNS TO ARRINGTON DIXON** for the worst legislative idea of the month. Dixon has proposed renaming 9th and Tenth Sts in the vicinity of the Marion Barry Astrodud, "Convention Boulevard, South" and "Convention Boulevard, North." There are at least four good reasons why this is a stupid idea. First, what conventioneer is going to be able to figure out a street called Convention Boulevard South Northwest? Second, some people are going to think that Convention Boulevard South runs south of the convention center, which it won't. Dixon likes the name, would you believe it, because traffic is southbound on it. Third, Washington has a logical system for naming its streets that has worked well and doesn't need the door opened to confusing exceptions. Fourth, the less said about the convention center the better.

- **THORNS TO THE WASHINGTON POST** for reporting that Andy Young of Atlanta became the first black mayor to succeed another black mayor. The Post remembered Marion the next day.

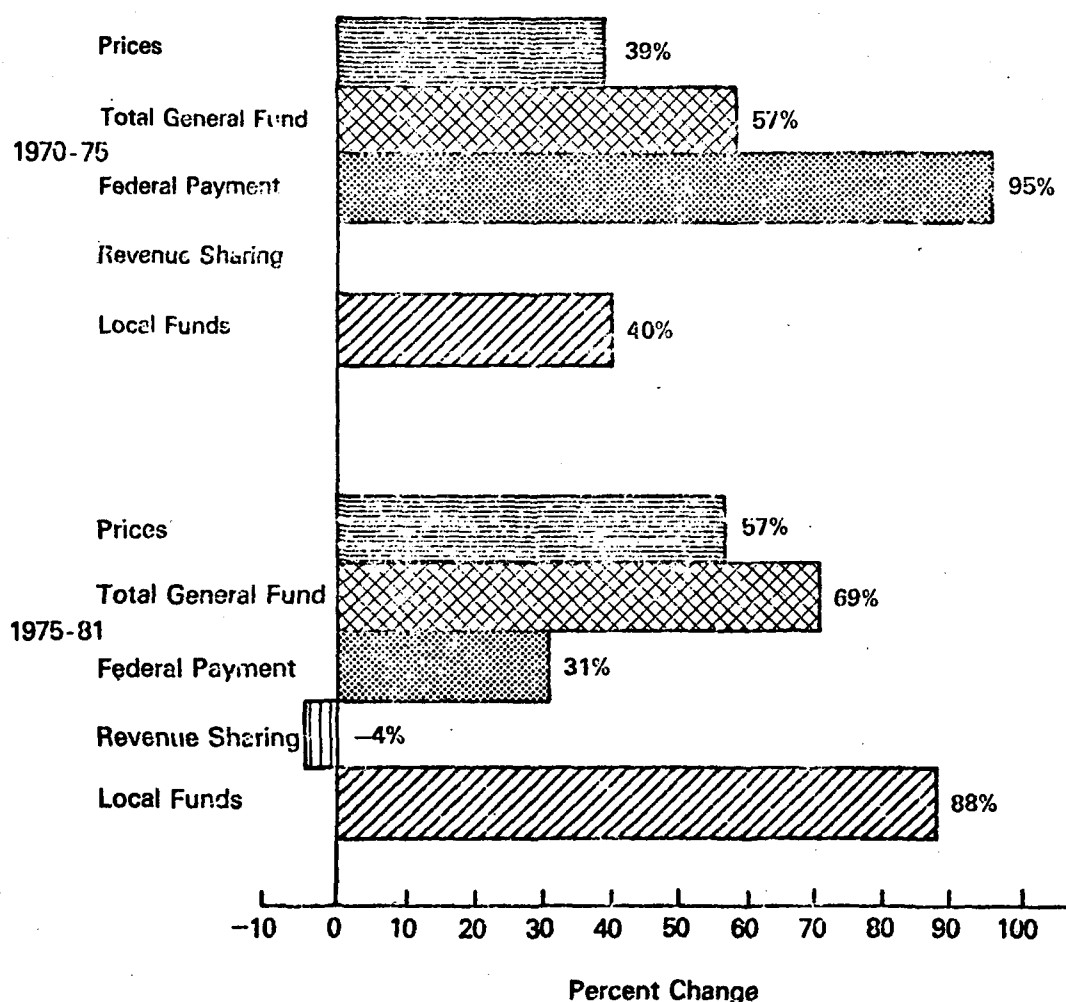
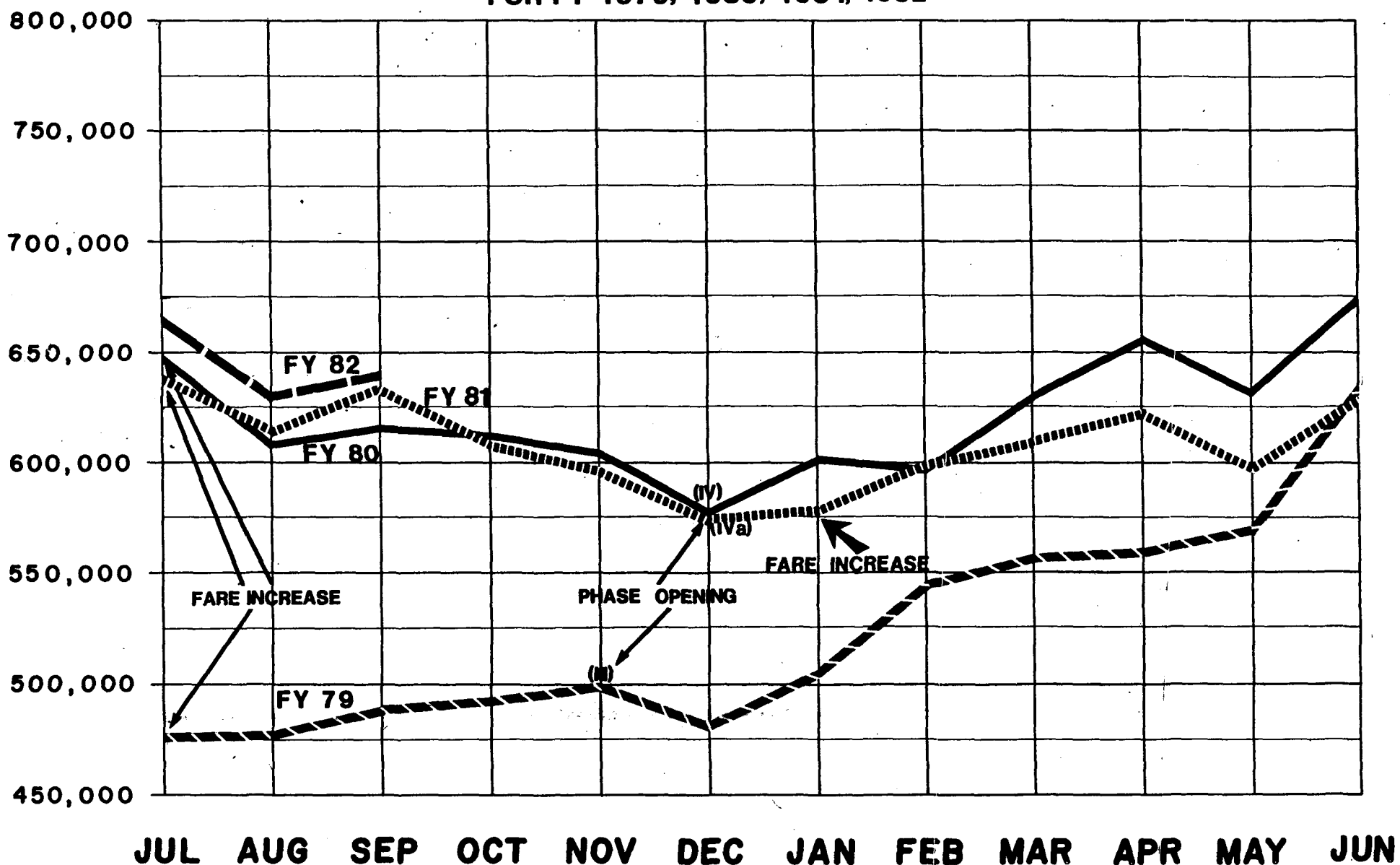
- **THORNS TO SENATOR CHARLES MATHIAS** for introducing a bill that would further limit local home rule in judicial matters. The bill would strengthen the president's role in the picking of judges and allow judges to live outside of DC. We wonder if those who like to refer to Mathias as a "friend of the city" will now eat their words.



## Roses & Thorns

# CITIFAX

## METRO AVERAGE WEEKDAY SYSTEM RIDERSHIP (BUS & RAIL) FOR FY 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982



## DC REVENUES VS. PRICES (Before & after home rule.)

This chart shows how, before home rule, the federal payment was outstripping the rise in the cost of living, but since home rule has increased at a rate less than the change in the cost of living.



# REGION

## WASTE IN CLE: NUP

The General Accounting Office charged last month that more than ten percent of the \$1 billion spent on cleaning up the Potomac in recent years was wasted. Furthermore, the operation added substantially to area homeowner's sewer bills. The GAO study of the Potomac river cleanup was in the nature of a case study that raised issues it said Congress should consider when revising the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

## DEPOSIT DRIVE

Environmental and bicycling groups are mounting a drive for passage of a returnable bottle bill in Virginia. Advocates cite public opinion surveys that show strong support for deposit laws. One recent canvas in Maryland of 390 households found 323 for a deposit

## Statehood delegates

### At Large

Hilda Mason  
Jerry Moore  
Barbara Simmons  
David Clarke  
Charles Cassell

### Ward One

Marie Nahikian  
Robert Love  
Anita Shelton  
Maurice Jackson  
Richard Bruning

### Ward Two

Barbara Maguire  
Alexa Freeman  
Wesley Long  
Ken Rothschild  
Brian Moore

### Ward Three

Gloria Corn  
Joel Garner  
Courts Oulahan  
Philip Schrag  
Franklin Kameny

### Ward Four

Vickie Street  
Charles Mason Jr.  
Janette Harris  
William Cooper  
Jeanette Feely

### Ward Five

Harry Thomas  
Talmadge Moore  
Samuel Robinson  
Norman Nixon  
Michael Marcus

### Ward Six

Jan Eichhorn  
Gerri Warren  
Howard Croft  
Charlotte Holmes  
Chestie Graham

### Ward Seven

Sandra Johnson  
James Baldwin  
James Terrell  
David Barnes  
William Blount

### Ward Eight

Mildred Lockridge  
James Coates  
Theresa Jones  
Absalom Jordan  
Gwendolyn Paramore

law, 46 for a litter tax and the remainder for both or neither.

Four states will probably have referenda on the issue this year.

The Virginia drive for legislation is being headed by Virginians for Returnables, PO Box 69, Richmond, Va. 23201.

# SPORTS

Pershing Park Ice Rink, has opened on Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th & 15th Streets, N.W.

The rink is under the general supervision of the National Park Service and operated under contract by Guest Services Inc.

Among the rink's features are an underground warming area, an eatery, rental skate facilities, and a variety of music to skate to.

Admission to a regular two-hour session is \$2.75 (\$2.00 for children under 12). The rink also offers special one-hour lunch sessions on weekdays for \$1.50. Skate rental is \$1.25 per person.

The rink is open seven days a week until early March. Information, 737-6937.

\*\*\*

The Department of Recreation has announced that the second annual District of Columbia Marathon will be held March 21.

The marathon is open to all interested persons. It is the only D.C. marathon race that goes through each of the eight wards and the four quadrants of the city. The marathon will begin on the Mall, between Fourth Street and Seventh Street, N.W. at 8 a.m. Info: 673-7660.

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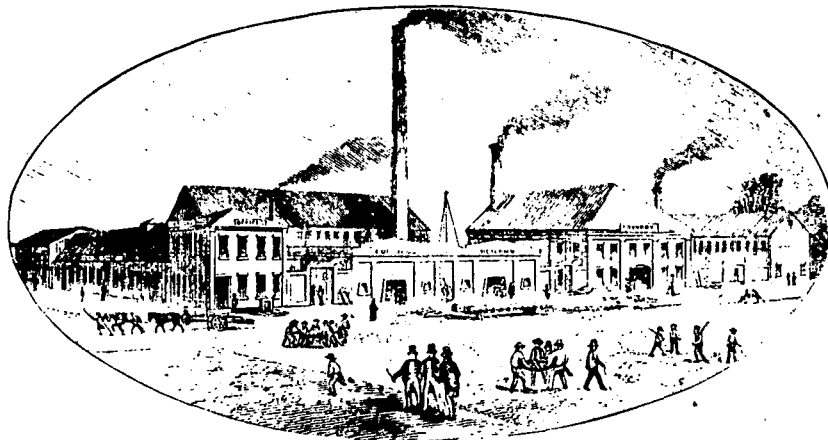
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# P.S. . . .

• The statehood constitutional convention had just gotten underway when we went to press, so we'll save our comments until next month. But we do have to mention the opening ceremonies that were done up in DC civic high style that provided a little cultural shock to those who had worked so many years in the political wilderness. Seven hundred people filled the Dunbar High School auditorium for a program that included the high school color guard, a green-and-yellow robed choir, invocations, benedictions, a soloist doing 'Climb Every Mountain,' Marion Barry giving each delegate a medallion and even a speech by Walter Fauntroy. It probably all would have made Julius Hobson madder than hell, but it was symbolically a high point in the statehood movement, a sign that the idea of statehood had become so firmly a part of the DC ideology that every politician in town wanted a piece of the action. It was a happy day.

• If the mayor wants to save some money he might inquire why it is necessary for snow plows to be preceded by pickup trucks with flashing lights and why the trash folk came down our street the other day to pick up the new supercans again led by a pickup with ungulating luminescence. It is impressive but probably not particularly cost effective.

• A friend points out that if both Gloria Corn and Carol Schwartz run in the Ward III Republican primary for city council, Carol will be known as the shy one. The news around here never stops.



# THE IDEA MILL

• "Potomac Valley Impressions: Sketches by a Government Clerk, 1853-1859" continues at the Heurich Mansion through May 1. The exhibition features 49 pencil sketches and watercolors by William G. Newton. Employed in the War Department, Newton spent much time wandering through the Potomac region from Harper's Ferry to the Chesapeake Bay. The exhibition highlights his studies of the Potomac River, Rock Creek, C&O Canal, nearby countryside, and historical buildings and sites.

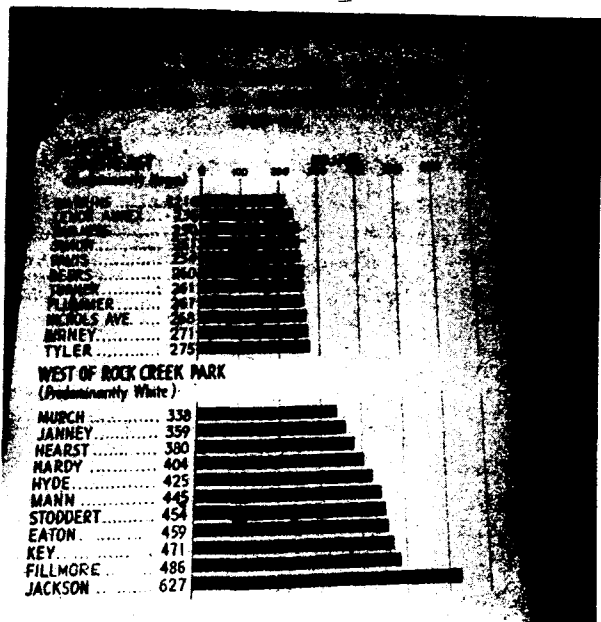
• A workshop on "Tracing Your House's History," cosponsored by the Columbia Historical Society and the L'Enfant Trust, will be held at the Heurich Mansion on Feb. 25 at 7:30 pm and March 2 at noon. Advance registration is \$15 per participant, \$10 for members of the sponsoring organizations. Call 347-1814.

"Washington on the Potomac," an exhibition of 19th & 20th century works, opens Feb. 21 at the Corcoran.

# 15 YEARS AGO

## in the pages of the Gazette

### Hobson Hits Hanson



Julius Hobson, local civil rights leader, (right) sharply attacked D. C. School Superintendent Carl Hansen at a January meeting of the School Action Council of Capitol East. The meeting was called to hear Hobson discuss his suit against the District school system in which he alleges that the school board is unconstitutionally appointed and that the schools discriminate against Negroes and the poor. In his free-wheeling talk, Hobson accused Hansen of assigning poor children to the "economic junkheap" via the track system. He used charts, like the one at left, to argue his points. The chart, based on school system records, shows the difference in per capita expenditures for elementary school children in Southeast (predominantly Negro) and west of Rock Creek Park (predominantly white). Hobson's suit, now before local courts, is being joined by SACCE as a friend of the court.

Hobson told the SACCE meeting that he wanted



to send his children to school west of Rock Creek Park "because that's where all the books are." He criticized community groups for failing to come to the aid of his law case.

He particularly took Negro churches to task. "There's not a black church in the community that raised any money for this suit."

The suit has cost \$12,000 so far.

### The Halprin plan

The White House has joined actively with local groups working for physical improvements and better recreational opportunities in Capitol East. Last month, Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson's Committee for a More Beautiful Capital released a report, prepared by the architectural firm of Lawrence Halprin & Associates, that outlined numerous ways in which the appearance of the area could be upgraded and in which better facilities could be provided to Capitol East citizens. The Gazette reprints a major portion of that report beginning on page 3.

Mrs. Johnson is reported to have made several tours of Capitol East during January, driving up alleys and checking corners, in order to see how the Halprin plan might be implemented.

And on February 7, at 8 pm, there will be a public meeting at Hine Junior High School, 8th and Penna. SE, to hear citizen views on the Halprin plan and other proposals for improving the area. The meeting called at the request of the White House and sponsored by the Emergency Recreation Council of Capitol East, will be addressed by Mrs. Sharon Francis of the White House beautification committee.

The White House is said to be very anxious to get community reaction to the Halprin proposal and to hear other ideas.

The Halprin plan's proposed improvements include the development of interior blocks, vest pocket parks, attractive commercial areas, a city park along the Anacostia and use of existing buildings for recreational purposes. The report draws heavily upon ideas that have been kicking around the area for some time. Many of these ideas have been incorporated into the longterm

goals of groups such as the Emergency Recreation Council. Backed in the report, for example, is conversion of the firehouse near 7th and N. C. Ave. SE to use as an indoor-outdoor pool, use of the car barn at 14th and E. Capitol for recreational purposes, and an Anacostia development scheme similar to that favored by many local leaders.

### Poverty funds

The two major anti-poverty programs in Capitol East will be allowed to continue at their present level. The United Planning Organization, which runs the Washington war on poverty, has voted to make required fund cuts in programs other than those carried out by agencies such as Friendship House in Near SE and the Community Improvement Corporation in Near NE.

For several months now, the future of local community action programs has been very much in doubt while UPO considered how it would reduce its expenditures by almost \$300,000 a month. The cutback was made necessary by last fall's austere congressional appropriations for the war on poverty.

The Navy has announced plans to refurbish the Navy Yard on the Anacostia River south of M St. According to the plan, for which no money has yet been provided, the ugly old industrial buildings in the yard will be torn down and replaced by new structures. There will also be new piers and an enlarged ellipse area. The several historic buildings in the yard, however, will be preserved. Included among these are the original commandant's home and the old commandant's office. The yard, according

to the plan, would also retain the Navy Museum.

The General Services Administration, which controls about half of the yard, has not yet decided what the future holds for its portion.

► This pool for 7th and N. C. Ave. SE is a fine idea, but why call it a natatorium? Our dictionary defines a natatorium as a "swimming pool" and that's all.

If the Recreation Dept. wants to ask Congress for a natatorium, we guess that's all right; but frankly, we'd settle for a plain old swimming pool.

► Among the new construction in Capitol East:

--The Little Sisters of the Poor, 220 H NE, are putting on a \$225,000 addition to their convent.

--A new one-story professional office building is going to be constructed at 702 15th NE at a cost of \$120,000.

--An 80-seat cocktail lounge is scheduled to open soon at the corner of 1st and D SE.

### Restoration Group Rebuffed on Pool

The city's Superintendent of Recreation has told the Capitol Hill Restoration Society that its opposition to construction of an outdoor-indoor swimming pool at 7th and N. C. Ave. SE does not represent the majority view of the area.

Planning money for the pool has high priority in this year's D. C. budget. Construction of the pool is backed by several local groups.

The Restoration Society voted unanimously last fall against the pool proposal and followed up its action with a

letter to the D. C. Commissioners. The letter urged that the planning money be dropped from the budget and said that "it would be far more beneficial to concentrate investments in a large property such as the D. C. car barn site at 14th & E. Capitol Streets, NE."

Replying to the letter, recreation head Joseph H. Cole said:

"The views of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society are not consistent with the views of the majority of other groups with which we have been in contact. Though it seems that usually the majority rules, we will be sure that your views are most carefully considered by the staff and the Recreation Board if and when funds for the development of this property are secured."



From a story on a meeting of the Capitol Hill Community Council:

The Council approved a motion recommending discontinuance "of use of the present DDT solution used to spray trees on the streets of the District of Columbia."

Advocates of the motion quoted authorities ranging from the Department of Agriculture to Rachel Carson to back up their position. Critics of the motion demanded to know what alternative those against DDT proposed for city use. One anti-DDT man, noting that there was a substantial amount of research that indicates the serious danger of DDT to health, said that "insects will do less damage than DDT will."

He was backed up by a lady dressed in blue who told the Council:

"I wonder how many people around here have seen any robins lately. They eat the worms that eat the DDT and they all die. It is a wicked thing that is being done in this city of Washington."